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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

NATION



The brutal polar air is being blamed
for 21 deaths nationwide.

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WORLD



A former Miss Venezuela and her
ex-husband are shot and killed by
robbers.

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CW fees allow trade institute to reopen its doors. PAGE 2
King objects to taking of Crisostomo's footprints. PAGE 5

Over 700 patients referred in 2013; govt expense at \$5.2M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite tight controls in the government's medical referral program, there seems to be an increasing number of patients being referred off-island for medical treatment, with more than 700 served last year.

Ronald D. Sablan, director for medical referral services, disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that a total of 732 off-island referrals were recorded in 2013, nearly a hundred patients more than the 645 recorded in 2012.

The medical referral program, which is under the Governor's Office, has been one of the government's largest expenses.

See PATIENTS on Page 4



NO LONGER LOST

Brown tree snake detector dog "Maddy" sits on the lap of Good Samaritan Vicenta S. Lacanale after her return to the Division of Wildlife BTS Program office in Lower Base yesterday. "Maddy" has been missing since Dec. 11, 2013. Holding Lacanale's \$100 check for finding the 12-year-old Jack Russell terrier at the back is BTS Program supervisor Marja K. Onni.

MARK RABAGO

See story on Page 2

WELCOME HOME!
Deployed
CNMI soldiers
return today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, other government and private sector personnel and family members will have a "private welcoming" at the Saipan International Airport for the arrival this morning of 15 soldiers from the CNMI who had just returned from their Afghanistan deployment.

The plane from Guam carrying the soldiers is expected to arrive on Saipan at about 8:05am today.

See SOLDIERS on Page 4

**DPL says it
could waive,
reduce land fee**

► **For Thursday
Market vendors**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands said yesterday it could either waive or reduce its "land fee" for Garapan Street Market vendors—if the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs requests and justifies the need to do so.

Vendors at the Garapan Fishing Base every Thursday night are protesting the land fee, which they said is an added cost considering that sales have not been as good as they used to and is being assessed without proper consultation.

The fee is equal to 1 percent of each vendor's gross sales.

"We informed DCCA last year that the land fee can be waived or reduced by DPL, but DCCA has not requested a waiver or reduction," DPL Real Estate

See DPL on Page 4



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Local

CW fees allow trade institute to reopen its doors

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Several months after it closed down due to a lack of funds, the only trade institute on Saipan, the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, has reopened its doors to fulfill its core mission of developing a pool of local workers.

NMTI director Vic Cepeda told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he is grateful to the Inos administration for its decision to allocate \$400,000 in new funding for the institute.

The money is sourced from the contract worker's fees that

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services remits to the CNMI government.

The institute suspended classes since early last year due to funding shortfalls for teachers' and instructors' salaries.

Cepeda said that despite numerous appeals for funding assistance from the government in the past, this was actually the first time that the institute was provided the much-needed help. At present, the school only has about \$7,000 funds in its account, entirely from educational tax credit donations of private companies.

NMTI, a legacy of the late businessman Anthony Pellegrino, was established in 2008 and has already produced more than 400 graduates, many of whom are employed in both the public and private sectors.

The institute's creation was spurred by the pending exit of about 10,000 nonresident workers once the immigration transition in the CNMI ends.

Since Monday, institute officials—along with members of its board of directors—have been preparing for the opening of classes slated this month.

Cepeda confirmed that the institute, as of yesterday, has 15 instructors for the following program offerings: culinary arts,

hotel and restaurant management, automotive mechanics, and construction (which include classes for electrical and carpentry, among others.)

For this term, a brand new course offering focusing on power plant work will also be available. Cepeda said that

five instructors—Victor Flores, Francisco Mitzutani, Gui Lawrence, Dennis Villagomez, and Kazue Wuki Lizama—will be teaching three classes under the power plant course. All are employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"Our goal is to have all our students certified in these programs so they could work at CUC by December," said

Cepeda, adding that all five CUC instructors are certified in their specialized fields. *Saipan Tribune* was told that morning sessions for the power plant program will be dedicated to classroom instructions while afternoon sessions will be hands-on training at the CUC power plants. The three classes under this program include electrical,

See CW FEES on Page 4

» 15 instructors, 5 major programs all set for new term

Garapan resident claims prize for finding BTS detector dog

A brown tree snake detector dog that's been missing since Dec. 11, 2013, was returned to the Division of Fish and Wildlife BTS program yesterday by a Garapan resident.

Vicenta S. Lacanlale said she found the 12-year-old Jack Russell terrier on Dec. 15, roaming close to her apartment at the back of the Horiguchi Building in Garapan.

"She just came to my house and she was very friendly," said Lacanlale.

She said it took her five days to call DFW after reading the missing flyer for "Maddy" on Dec. 20. The return of the dog, which has been with the BTS Program since 2002, was only

done yesterday because of the holidays.

For her troubles, Lacanlale was awarded a \$100 finder's fee that was sponsored by radio KKMP. The 48-year-old said she will use the money to buy groceries.

BTS Program K-9 supervisor Marja K. Onni thanked the Good Samaritan for bringing "Maddy" back home.

Onni said it's a mystery how "Maddy" was able to walk from the BTS Program's K-9 kennel in Lower Base to Lacanlale's Canton Apartment in Garapan. "Tell me about it. How could this little bitty one [managed to go so far]?" she said.

Onni also took the opportuni-

ty to thank KKMP owners Gary Sword and Rosemond Santos for putting up a reward for the safe return of "Maddy."

She said "Maddy" is one of three Jack Russell terriers that the BTS Program has. Two are on Saipan and one is on Tinian. They also have other breeds of dogs in the program.

Onni said that "Maddy" and other BTS detector K-9 help inspect airplanes and sea vessels coming from Guam to make sure they are free of brown tree snakes, which since their introduction to the U.S. territory during World War II has totally wiped out the local bird population on the island.

(Mark Rabago)

DEQ, CRM merger more likely to go through

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Whether or not the House of Representatives rejects this afternoon Gov. Eloy S. Inos' Nov. 12 executive order merging the Division of Environmental Quality and Coastal Resources Management Office, the merger is likely to proceed because the Senate—as of yesterday—has not set a session before the Jan. 12 deadline for both houses to either reject or modify the executive order.

Rejecting or modifying an executive order requires a majority vote of the members of each chamber of the Legislature.

Moreover, both the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have already formally issued separate statements stating that the CNMI is not in jeopardy of losing federal grants as a result of merging DEQ and CRM.

Potential loss of federal grants is one of the reasons cited by the House Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee in recommending rejection of the governor's Executive Order 2013-24.

The JGO Committee report is expected to be acted on in this afternoon's House session.

Yesterday, the JGO Committee led by Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan)

again called in DEQ director Frank Rabauliman, acting CRM administrator Ana Agulto, and other DEQ and CRM officials for further clarification.

Besides responding to questions from lawmakers, DEQ

» NOAA joins EPA in saying CNMI is not in jeopardy of losing federal funds

presented EPA and NOAA's letters backing the merger.

Some House members previously poised to reject the merger had a change of heart.

Leon Guerrero, in an interview, said the important thing is that members "got clarification of the issues involved, such as whether the CNMI would lose federal funds if we combine the two agencies."

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) echoed the JGO chairman's statement, adding that lawmakers are supposed to clarify and get more information before voting on anything.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), as of yesterday afternoon, has not called for a regular, special or emergency session to address the executive order.

NOAA interim acting regional lead for Southeast and Caribbean Region Bill O'Beime wrote a Jan. 8 letter, stating that "NOAA believes that, whether or not there is a merger, the Commonwealth is not in jeopardy of losing CZMA [Coastal Zone Management Act] funding."

O'Beime said states are given a good deal of latitude in how they structure their Coastal

Management Programs. The critical determination that could affect funding is whether the new structure arising from the merger continues to meet the CZMA's minimum criteria, he said.

"The existing structure has been found to be acceptable and even if a new structure were determined not to meet those minimum requirements, NOAA would work with the Commonwealth to remedy any deficiencies before any financial penalties were imposed... NOAA does not, and will not take a position on what is the 'right' structure for any state of territory program; rather we evaluate a chosen structure with our minimum requirements," he added.

John McCarroll, EPA Region 9 Pacific Islands Office manager, assured that "EPA would not decrease its grant funding to the CNMI as a result of this executive order establishing the BECQ."

BECQ stands for the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, which the governor's executive order forms. The bureau will be headed by an administrator and will have two divisions: DEQ and CRM.

McCarroll's letter is in addition to the letter of support from EPA's CNMI program manager Carl L. Goldstein, sent earlier on behalf of McCarroll.

Goldstein said, "There are no other states or territories in which the EPA and NOAA programs come under one leader. This will be a first, and it can only be good."

Healthy Outcomes for Maternal and Early-Childhood (H.O.M.E.) Visiting Program



What is the H.O.M.E. Visiting Program?

- The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program sets out to improve the health and developmental outcomes for mothers, children, and families through home visiting services.

What is the purpose for this program?

- The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program sets out to strengthen the early childhood system in the community and to support families and communities in the development of children who are healthy and ready to learn at school entry. The program strengthens and enhances evidence based curriculum activities, expand and improve coordination, and assure the provision of comprehensive services for families who reside in at-risk communities.

What are the program objectives?

- Promote and maintain positive-child Interaction and family involvement
- Provide and connect families to appropriate resources
- Protect and improve the health, growth and development of every participant served
- Produce and deliver quality service to families in at-risk communities

What Services are provided?

- Prenatal Care Planning
- Basic Baby Care
- Parental Information and Techniques
- Developmental Screening and Activities
- Parent Support
- Infant Massage
- Referrals to appropriate agencies

How can I qualify?

- Enroll Prenatally
- A resident of KAGMAN, KOBLERVILLE, DAN DAN, GARAPAN, SAN ANTONIO
- Upon enrollment child must not exceed the age of 3 months of age
- A standardized tool will be used to identify families who are eligible to enroll and who will benefit from the program.

*At risk communities refer to pre selected villages that include Kagman, San Antonio, Koblerville, Dan Dan and Garapan



This has been funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC) Division of Public Health H.O.M.E. Visiting Program, for more information please contact 236-8724/40 or simply email us at hvpcnmi@gmail.com.

DLNR Secretary Palacios running for senator

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios said yesterday he is running for senator under the Republican Party in the November 2014 general elections, a few years after becoming a House speaker in the 16th Legislature.

"A senior Saipan senator is retiring and I had the privilege

to develop certain skills set that will be very valuable to the community as former member of the House and Cabinet, especially during these very challenging times," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

Palacios was DLNR Division of Fish and Wildlife director for 12 years, from 1984 to 1996, prior to becoming a lawmaker. He also served as fisheries data program manager at DFW before becoming

division director.

He served four terms at the House of Representatives, becoming speaker in the 16th Legislature. He ran for the lieutenant governor post but lost.

In 2011, Palacios got his old job back as DFW director and eight months later was appointed DLNR secretary. The Senate confirmed his nomination in early 2012.

Palacios said that further developing the economy will always be among his priorities.

So far, besides Palacios, for-

mer speaker and former Public Lands secretary Oscar M. Babauta has also announced his intention to run for a Senate seat representing Saipan.

Two of three Saipan senatorial seats are up for grabs in No-

vember—the seats of Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan). Torres is running for lieutenant governor, with Gov. Eloy S. Inos as his running mate.

Palacios is the lat-



Palacios

est Cabinet member to announce his intention to see another office. Weeks ago, Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas confirmed he is running for Tinian mayor in the 2014 elections.

Optimism high on pending CMS survey result for CHC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Medical staff and employees of the Commonwealth Health Center are optimistic that results of the survey done by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid at the hospital will be favorable, according to hospital director Jesse Tudela.

During a recent donation ceremony at the hospital, Tudela shared the many positive changes that are now evident at the only public medical facility on island, including the successful hiring of personnel to fill key positions, many of which have been vacated for years.

"I can say, we changed a lot and you will see the many improvements from years back. Although there remains many challenges, I am optimistic for our hospital," said Tudela.

CMS has yet to issue the final results of the survey, which was held in September 2012.

Tudela, who handles the operational side of CHC, cited as one of their notable achievements the increased number of the medical workforce, including ancillary services.

Healthcare corporation board chair Joaquin Torres echoed Tudela's optimism yesterday and confirmed that CMS has yet to issue a decision.

The Commonwealth Health Center was earlier cited with numerous deficiencies in its operation that threatened the facility's Medicare certification. To rectify these citations, CHC developed a corrective action plan to resolve many of the concerns.

During the resurvey, the hospital's condition of participation with Medicare remains in effect until a decision is reached whether to retain or terminate the certification.

A five-member CMS team made a surprise inspection of the hospital on Sept. 9. Compared to the survey conducted in September 2012, the team did not raise major concerns or deficiencies.

CHC receives approximately \$22 million in reimbursements from Medicaid and Medicare yearly. Without the certification for continued Condition of Participation, CHC stands to lose this huge federal assistance.

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Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, January 23rd, 2014 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of December 27th, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2014-0020:** Grip LLC is proposing to operate an office for ambulance services/ parking on lot 006 H 09 in Chalan Kanoa. This use is classified as Office and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located on Carmen Avenue, south of Mt Carmel School, and is zoned as Village Residential.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

1. Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013, authored by Representative Larry I. Deleon Guerrero, 18th CNMI Legislature

E. New Business

1. **Board Resolution to amend Conditional Use Permit #2011-6433.** Tasi Homes Development Co., LLC is requesting to amend its approved site development plan to reflect interior re-designing of floor plans, re-structuring of parking stalls, and closure of one entrance/exit driveway fronting Beach Road. This area is located next to the Sugar Dock and northwest of Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.
2. Office operations report

C. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

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SPRING 2014 SEMESTER DATES

January 9, 2014
9am – 11:30am
Room D-1

English and Math Placement Test
January 10, 2014
9am, Testing Center in Building I

Registration
January 13-16, 2014
9am – 6pm
(Registration is scheduled by Student PowerCampus number. Visit marianas.edu for details)

Late Registration
January 17, 2014
9am – 6pm

To schedule an appointment to take the English and Math placement Test call the Testing Center at 237-6774/6790.
(Note: Placement tests will not be administered during registration.)

For the latest news and announcements, follow NMC on Facebook at facebook.com/NMC.Proa and on Twitter at twitter.com/GoProa or visit our new YouTube page for archived videos!

For more information about admissions or registration, log on to www.marianas.edu or contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771.

CNMI minimum wage hike to match federal level pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) will introduce today a bill raising the CNMI local minimum wage—still pegged at \$3.05 an hour—

“to match the federal minimum wage applicable to the CNMI” now at \$5.55 an hour and is supposed to increase every-other-year until it reaches the federal wage floor of \$7.25 an hour.

Demapan said the local wage of \$3.05 an hour applies to resi-

dents and small businesses “not engaged in commerce” as defined by the Federal Labor Standards Act.

Right now, other job categories and classifications are not covered by the federal minimum wage applicable to the

CNMI, including house workers and farmers.

This year, the federal minimum wage law applicable to the CNMI will increase by another 50 cents, bringing it to \$6.05 an hour.

Demapan said the lower

CNMI minimum wage results in salary inequality with employees doing the same job being paid different minimum wages.

“In order to have a uniform minimum wage, the Commonwealth minimum wage should be changed to match the federal minimum wage applicable in the [CNMI],” Demapan said in his House Bill 18-163.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said nothing stops CNMI lawmakers from raising the local minimum wage.

He also told the Saipan Chamber of Commerce that there is nothing in the federal minimum wage law that says

employers cannot pay more than the minimum.

The Chamber asked Sablan to have the 50-cent minimum wage increase delayed in 2013 through legislation that President Barack Obama signed into law on Sept. 18.

The same law that skipped the 2013 and 2015 minimum wage hike also conveyed to the CNMI 3 miles of submerged lands.

A 2007 U.S. law requires the federal minimum wage applicable to the CNMI to increase annually until it reaches the federal wage floor of \$7.25 an hour. That law has been amended to skip the increase during certain years.

Humane Society reps seek to address stray dog problem in Guam and NMI

Guam (PNC)—Representatives from the Humane Society are in Guam this week to meet with island leaders in an effort to help address the problem of stray dogs.

Hawaii State Director of Humane Society Inga Gibson says it will take time to solve the problem in Guam where there are about 40,000 stray dogs. Their plan is to help provide spay and neuter services as well as conduct a public education

campaign.

“Spay-neuter itself, without the other components, would only be a band-aid solution. We need a long term program and part of that is actually conduct a survey. That’s what we hope to do is to work with the Mayors Council, Governor’s Office, GAIN and others in actually doing a survey to determine that actual number of dogs on Guam, identify villages with the greatest need, providing afford-

able accessible spay-neuter and other veterinary care. Another thing that’s important is education,” said Gibson.

Gibson also brought up reports to the Humane Society about dog fighting on our island. She says Guam has some of the strongest laws in the country relating to animal abandonment, animal cruelty and dog fighting but she says the challenge is enforcing those laws.

“One of the other components

in the meeting is addressing animal cruelty issues. As a National and International organization, we receive calls from our supporters in Guam that are concerned specifically about dog fighting. We want to make sure law enforcement has the resources to investigate and enforce the laws,” said Gibson.

Tomorrow, representatives from the Humane Society will meet with the lieutenant governor. On Friday, they will meet with Mayor Donald Flores on Saipan and next week, they will be leaving for Rota to start on their project.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA general membership meeting

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to the annual general membership meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014, at 5:30pm at the CCA conference room.

The agenda will include the president’s 2013 annual

report. Immediately after the annual report, election of the board of directors will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via e-mail and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination or for more information, call CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

Red Cross trainings next week

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

■ Thurs., Jan. 16 at 4:30pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning

■ Thurs., Jan. 16 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED

Classes are held at the

chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour pre-registration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. (ARC)

DPL

From Page 1

Division director Rachel Roque told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Roque said DPL previously reduced the land fee from 3 percent to 1 percent after then DCCA secretary Melvin Faisao asked for it.

The land fee, she said, has always been in the temporary authorization that DPL granted DCCA. When the task of overseeing the Garapan Street Market was transferred last year to one of DCCA’s divisions—the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture—executive director Angel Hocog tried to implement the land fee to comply with the temporary authori-

zation from DPL.

CCAC executive director Angel Hocog, for his part, said yesterday “it’s good to know” that DPL can waive the fee.

“We want to help the vendors. But they also have to consider that this land fee is one way of helping our economy too,” Hocog said.

Hocog said he still has to bring the matter up to DCCA Secretary Laura Ogunoro before deciding whether to request a waiver or reduction of the fee. He said DCCA or CCAC does not want to violate the terms of DPL’s temporary authorization to use the Garapan Fishing Base for the every-Thursday-market.

Jack Hudak, president of Thai House Restaurant, one of the

pioneer vendors at the Garapan Street Market, said yesterday he would be communicating with CCAC’s Hocog to request DPL for the land fee’s waiver.

“I am speaking for myself but I’m sure other vendors would agree with me that the land fee should be waived. Everybody would be happy. I believe there’s only lack of communication on this,” Hudak said.

Juan “Pan” T. Guerrero, general manager of Herman’s Modern Bakery that is also a vendor at the Garapan Street Market, said DPL’s statement is “good news.”

The Thursday market vendors are questioning the implementation and reason behind the 1 percent land fee, which is on top of the weekly fee and

the business gross revenue tax they pay.

Hudak, who opened the first Thai restaurant in the CNMI in 1993, earlier said he would not pay the fee until CCAC and DPL meet with the vendors to explain the matter. With yesterday’s development, Hudak said there is still a need for vendors to organize to collectively ask DCCA to request DPL for a land fee waiver. He can be reached at 235-8424.

There are currently 49 vendors at the Garapan Street Market, and another 20 are on a standby list, Hocog said. He had earlier said if the current vendors do not comply with the 1 percent land fee requirement, then CCAC won’t have a choice but to let them go.

said. He will be back to Saipan a few hours before the flight of the soldiers.

The 15 soldiers from the CNMI arrived in Guam early Sunday morning, along with 265 others members of the Guam Army National Guard 1-294th Infantry Regiment. The rest of the 600 soldiers will be arriving in Guam, also from Camp Shelby in Mississippi, in the days ahead.

The CNMI governor’s office encourages the general public to participate in the welcoming of the soldiers “and display flags and yellow ribbons to show their support for the arriving Guardsmen.”

SOLDIERS

From Page 1

They are among the 600 soldiers with the Guam National Guard deployed throughout Afghanistan in 2013, the largest group of reserve component troops to be mobilized and deployed from the Marianas.

Media and the general public are not allowed in the “private welcoming” inside the airport.

Marvin Seman of the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management said the private welcoming would last only 15 to 20 minutes, and the general public would be able

to see and greet the returning soldiers once they get out of the airport.

The governor, in a letter to members of the Legislature, said his office has coordinated a brief reception to honor the 15 returning Guardsmen from the Guam Army National Guard 1-294th Infantry Regiment “for their heroism and dedication to our great nation.”

“Upon their arrival on Thursday, there will be a private welcoming for the soldiers with their respective family members and participation from our government agencies, private sector and community,” Inos said.

Immediately following the

private welcoming is a motorcade from the Saipan International Airport, down Airport Road and to the Airport Road/Isa Drive intersection.

One of the parents of the returning soldiers, 54-year-old Joey Ejercito, earlier told *Saipan Tribune* he was relieved and happy to see his son for the first time in Guam Monday night. His son SPC Josh Ejercito, 21, will be among the 15 CNMI soldiers arriving on Saipan today.

“My family and friends have prepared a welcome home banner and t-shirts for his return. We’re so happy and thankful for his return,” the older Ejercito

PATIENTS

From Page 1

ditures over the years. In 2013, Sablan bared that the administration spent \$5.274 million on these referral expenses, not including the program’s personnel and operational expenditures.

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that of the 732 referrals last year, the bulk was sent to neighboring Guam hospitals, totaling 442. Patients referred to Philippine hospitals came next with 211, which Sablan said is where most of the funding went last year.

“This is a concern because at times, due to a patient’s medical condition, we are forced to send the patient to the Philippines at 100-percent expense versus nothing if a patient’s Medicaid coverage would be accepted in a U.S. certified medical institution,” Sablan said.

For hospitals in Hawaii, the CNMI referred 62 patients while referrals to the U.S. mainland totaled 17.

Saipan Tribune learned that the medical referral program gets a budget of \$2 million to \$3 million a year—much lower than what it always proposes, resulting in a significant shortfall.

When asked how the program copes with its budgetary constraints, Sablan said the reprogramming authority of the governor is a big help.

“The governor’s office reprograms funds to cover the short-

fall. Our expenditures for prior fiscal years are right around our budget submissions. Unfortunately, the actual budget passed by the Legislature has always been underfunded,” he said.

Higher referrals

According to Sablan, one important factor that contributed to the increase in medical referrals last year is the lack of medical maintenance among many patients. When they come in and seek help, many are in worse stages of their illnesses or diseases.

“[The] impact of members dropping their health insurance benefit [is the] higher number of referral submissions and at worse stages due to lack of medical maintenance. Fortunately, [the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] medical staff are now proactive and new recruits are experienced and well-rounded, allowing some cases that are normally sent off-island to be treated locally,” said Sablan.

The program’s biggest challenge right now is its inadequate funding to run its operation. Sablan said the lack of funds hampers their ability to do utilization review and hire more people, affecting processing time, the frequent complaints of patients, the delivery of service in designated off-island field offices, and the challenge of where to send patients because most providers in Guam and Hawaii will not accept Medicaid coverage due to the unpaid obligations of the CNMI government.

20 enrollees of the programs. Because registration is ongoing, Cepeda is confident that more enrollees will come in.

The school aims to have a minimum of 10 students per class. Classes are expected to begin on Jan. 13 for automotive and Jan. 20 for the other programs.

NMTI was aided in the past by funding assistance from local and federal sources. Cepeda hopes that financial support such as educational tax credit, grants, and donations will continue to be directed to the institute.

CW FEES

From Page 2

mechanical, and welding and fabrication.

For the culinary and hotel/restaurant programs, Hyatt Regency Saipan will provide five instructors, led by Josephine Mesta.

Five other instructors will be for automotive mechanics and construction.

This week, NMTI conducted a five-day special session titled “Prepping for Success” as a preparatory class for the initial

King objects to taking of Crisostomo's footprints without her

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Janet H. King has objected to the government's execution of a search warrant in which footprints were seized from her client, Joseph A. Crisostomo, at the Department of Corrections on Dec. 24, 2013, in the absence of his lawyer.

Arguing that it was a violation of her client's Sixth Amendment rights, King asked the Superior Court to suppress

the footprint evidence.

Crisostomo faces charges of kidnapping and killing bartender Emerita Romero in 2012.

In a motion filed Monday, King said her client has a right to have his counsel present at all stages of these proceedings and during any confrontation by the CNMI government and its agents.

The defense lawyer said that the government seized six barefoot prints of Crisostomo at DOC on Dec. 24, 2013, at 9:15am, using a search warrant issued

by Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on Dec. 23, 2013.

King said she was not made aware of the government's application for the search warrant, until between 9am and 9:15am on Dec. 24, at the time the search warrant was being executed.

She said that Chief Prosecutor Shelli Neal sent her at 9am that day the email message that a search warrant was being executed.

King said she called Neal to ask for a copy of the search warrant and the accompanying affidavit but none was provided.

King said the Office of the Attorney General later provided her with a copy of the search warrant and supporting affidavit of police detective Simon T.

Manacop, the inventory of the search warrant, an investigative report, evidence/property custody receipts, and a DVD disc.



King



Crisostomo

The lawyer pointed out that Manacop stated in his affidavit that in the first week of December 2013, the government contacted William Bodziak, a retired Federal Bureau of Investigation agent who has purportedly conducted "thou-

sands of forensic examinations to include foot impressions," in order to compare the barefoot footprints recovered at the former La Fiesta Mall and a new set of Crisostomo's footprints.

Manacop further disclosed that Bodziak advised him to obtain these new footprints from Crisostomo. He stated that the footprints collected would then be compared to the barefoot print evidence found within the La Fiesta crime scene, where Romero's body was found on Feb. 7, 2012.

King said that records of the case shows that prior to securing this search warrant, the government had previously inspected and actually acquired a set of the Crisostomo's footprints by

FBI agents in June 2012.

"Why the Commonwealth chose to seize the defendant's footprints now when it initially did so in June of 2012, which was approximately four months after it secured and processed bare footprints at La Fiesta Mall in February of 2012, is simply unknown," King said.

The lawyer pointed out that Dec. 24, 2013, is almost a year later. By this time, she said, the case is now at a stage where the government must file a motion seeking a court order directing Crisostomo to provide another sample of his barefoot prints.

The jury trial of Crisostomo will be start on April 7, 2014. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will preside over the trial.

Alleged pimp's request to move trial OK'd

The federal court granted yesterday the second request of alleged pimp Annette N. Basa to move her jury trial to another date.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set Basa's new trial date to March 17, 2014.

Manglona said she finds that the ends of justice require a further continuance to allow Basa time to prepare adequately for trial "in this complex and unusual case."

The judge noted that the U.S. government already disclosed more than 1,500 pages of documents, and more may yet be forthcoming.

Manglona said the U.S. government recently seized cell phones in the course of related prosecutions and these items are now undergoing forensic analysis.

"These searches may uncover further information that would have to be disclosed to defense counsel," Steven Pixley, Manglona said.

She said Pixley needs more time to complete the interviews of some of key witnesses.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy did not object to the continuance.

Last Oct. 14, Manglona granted Basa's first request to continue the trial to Jan. 27, 2014, on ends-of-justice grounds. The original trial date was Oct. 28, 2013.

Basa and co-defendant Richard S. Benavente have both pleaded not guilty to the charges of engaging in sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of two minors.

According to the indictment, Benavente persuaded the two girls to have sex and recorded the incident using a cell phone. This allegedly happened twice.

The indictment alleged that on April 1, 2013, Basa recruited and enticed the two girls to engage in "commercial sex act."

A Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent alleged that Benavente took videos of himself having sex with two 15-year-old girls. Basa allegedly offered the girls to the firefighter in exchange for methamphetamine or "ice" and unspecified amount of money. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Grip, LLC

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Grip LLC is proposing to operate an office for ambulance services/ parking on lot 006 H 09 in Chalan Kanoa. This use is classified as Office and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located on Carmen Avenue, south of Mt Carmel School, and is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: January 23rd 2014, Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, January 22nd, 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

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The Samsung Galaxy Note® 3 is stunning from every angle. An all-new, thinner, lightweight design makes the Galaxy Note® 3 even easier to carry, while its new stitched cover provides a look and feel unlike any other phone.

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Search for overboard crewmember underway in Pacific

HONOLULU—The search is underway for a crewmember reported overboard from a cruise ship approximately 1,133 miles northeast of Hilo, Tuesday.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordi-

nation Center were notified at approximately 12am, regarding a 34-year-old Filipino national who was reported overboard from the *Grand Princess*.

The crewmember was last seen at approximately

10:26pm, Monday.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barber's Point is currently on scene and the cruise ship has changed course and is searching for the missing passenger.

As part of the AMVER program, the container ship *Horizon Reliance* is assisting in the search along with the Grand Princess's sister ship, *Star Princess*.

AMVER, sponsored by the Coast Guard, is a unique, com-

puter-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With AMVER, rescue coordinators can identify participating

ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond.

Weather conditions on scene are winds of approximately 20 mph, seas of 7 feet and a water temperature of approximately 70 degrees. (USCG)

CUC accrues \$45M in stipulated order penalties

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From just \$4 million in penalties three years ago, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has to date accrued \$45 million in

finances and penalties for failing to timely address the concerns raised by the federal government pursuant to stipulated orders related to water, wastewater and oil handling.

CUC chief financial officer

Charles Warren told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the over \$45 million represent penalties that have piled up since the stipulated orders were issued five years ago.

U.S. District Court for the

NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson signed stipulated orders in March 2009, setting the requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet. The orders represent the agreement between the CNMI and U.S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency on how CUC will come into compliance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Under Stipulated Order 1, the court requires CUC to create a new management and financial structure of all aspects of CUC's operations. It is related to CUC's inadequacy of providing potable drinking water and wastewater services. Stipulated Order 2 involves the lack of infrastructure for safe fuel storage, handling, and transfer facilities of the power generation facilities, and power distribution, including possible environmental site cleanup, among other requirements.

According to Warren, of the \$45 million accrued penalties, CUC was only made to pay a minimal amount of about \$169,000. This was paid in two separate occasions four years ago.

The first payment was made in January 2010, amounting to \$29,000. A month later, in February of that same year, the corporation made another payment of \$140,000.

Based on the provisions of both stipulated orders, CUC shall pay penalties for failure to meet any requirement in the SOs. Penalties imposed range from \$250 per day per violation for specific deliverables

up to maximum of \$5,000 per day per violation.

For example, for specific deliverables under Stipulated Order 1, penalties imposed is \$1,000 per day per violation for the first 30 days; then \$2,000 per day per violation for the following 30 days; and \$5,000 per day per violation for each day thereafter. The accrued penalties are inclusive of interest.

According to the order, any penalty accruing pursuant to SO shall be payable upon demand by the federal court. However, the U.S. may, in the exercise of its discretion, reduce or waive the penalties.

Warren disclosed yesterday that the requirements or deliverables for each stipulated order have different deadlines.

"While many of the stipulated order deliverables have set or easily determined due dates, many do not. Those with indefinite or difficult to determine dates include oil contamination remediation activities and completion of water/wastewater master plan projects. Dates can also change as the EPA reviews submissions and amends or otherwise changes project parameters," he explained.

To address requirements of the stipulated orders, CUC has been exploring financial assistance from both local and federal sources.

Saipan Job Fair a success

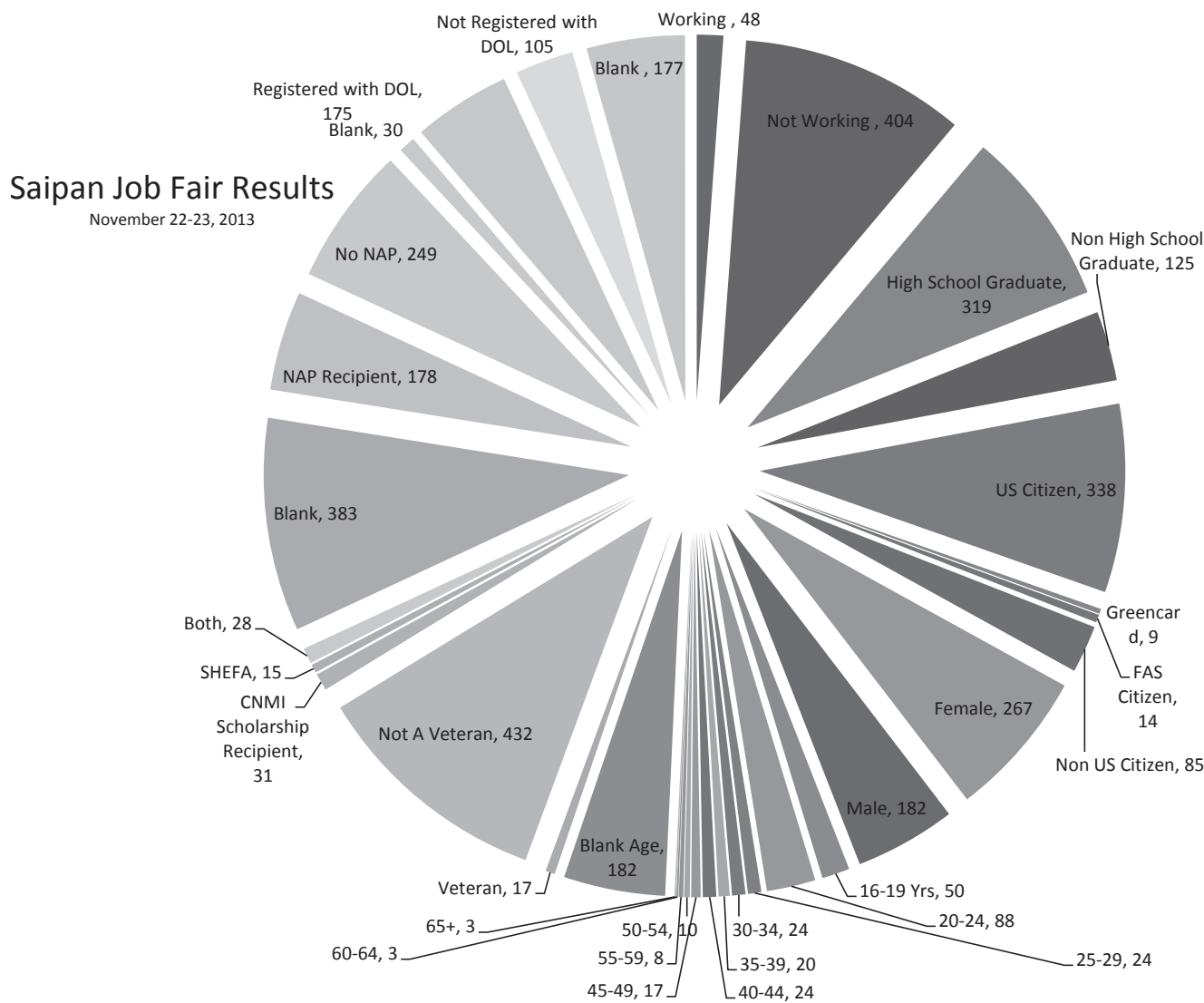
The Governor's Target 2014 Task Force has finalized its data inputting for the Job Fair held on Saipan on Nov. 22-23, 2013, of which a total of 457 individuals participated. The data collected from the Saipan Job Fair is of great assistance to the CNMI, and will be used

by the Department of Labor to strengthen its efforts on organizing for sector trainings; encouraging state workforce partners to conduct more outreach activities for individuals, including those who do not possess a high school or equivalency diploma; and en-

gaging individuals who remain unemployed to be proactive in updating their registration with the CNMI DOL Employment Services Division.

A Job Fair for the island of Tinian is scheduled for Jan. 24, 2014, and for the island of Rota on Jan. 31, 2014. Similar data for Tinian and Rota will be collected and published accordingly.

Funding for sector trainings are available through CW Education Fees collected under U.S. Public Law 110-229. CW education fees for previous fiscal years were appropriated to the Northern Marianas College and the Public School System; and to NMC, PSS, and Northern Marianas Trade Institute for fiscal year 2014. (Office of the Governor)



12 sign up for Little Miss Pusong Pinoy

With still days before the Jan. 15 deadline for candidates, the United Filipino Organization's staging of the Little Miss Pusong Pinoy 2014 already looks promising.

UFO president Annamae Adaza said that, as of Jan. 7, a total of 12 candidates have already signified their intention of joining the beauty and talent pageant for girls 6-9 years old.

"As of now we have 12 candidates but with a lot of inquiries we are expecting more will join. We might also change the

venue because we need a bigger place but it still under negotiation, but the date and time is still Feb. 16. It's a Sunday and good thing the next day Monday is a holiday, President's Day."

The original venue for the event was the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Adaza reminded those who want to join not to wait for the Jan. 15 deadline. She said UFO will be holding a general meeting and orientation for the Little Miss Pusong Pinoy 2014 today, Jan. 9, 5:30pm at the

Saipan Music & Dance Studio in Garapan.

"Just be there for the general meeting and they can fill up the application on the spot. They just need to bring a copy of their daughter's birth certificate. Once we have enough candidates then we will stop accepting applications," she said.

Contestants for the Little Miss Pusong Pinoy 2014 will be competing for Best in Talent, Best in Evening Gown, question-and-answer portion, along with some special categories

like Darling of the Crowd, Star of the Night, Miss Friendship, and Miss Photogenic.

Winners will receive cash prizes of \$800 for first place, \$500 for second, \$300 for third, and \$100 for fourth place.

The Top 4 will also get gift packs, certificates of participation, and a sash and a bouquet of flowers, while non-winners will receive consolation cash prizes, gift packs, and certificates of participation.

To register, call or text Adaza at 483-5237, UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or event director/coordinator Emie Molina at 789-8212. (Mark Rabago)

Group to have truffle-making class Monday

Soroptimist International of Mariana Islands will be organizing a truffle-making class on Monday, Jan. 13, from 6pm to 8pm at a still unnamed venue.

Hyatt Regency Saipan pastry sous chef Shawn Sweeney has volunteered to teach members of the group the intricacies of candy making in time for next month's celebration of Valentine's Day.

According to the local Soroptimist International group's newsletter, the class will entail truffles, including some ways to change flavors by adding other ingredients.

Sweeney will also be providing recipes that would allow members to make truffles at home. Participants also get to take home a small box of truffles to enjoy.

The truffle-making class is limited to 20 participants and children are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent if under age 12.

The venue for the class will be decided at a meeting today at the 2nd floor conference room

of the Family Building, where Xerox and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce are located.

In related news, the group's president Jill Arenovski said they would announce the winner of their Women's Opportunity Awards before the month ends.

The Women's Opportunity Awards are open to women who want to improve their job skills through education and training.

The award may be used to offset any costs associated with efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, and transportation.

Soroptimist International is a global women's organization whose members volunteer to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

For more information about Soroptimist International Northern Mariana Islands, contact Arenovski at 287-9395 or sinorthernmarianaislands@soroptimist.net. (Mark Rabago)

Guam working through nearly \$22M owed on land

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam's territorial government still owes nearly \$22 million to previous landowners nearly six years after buying land for the Layan landfill.

Only a small portion of the \$25 million compensation award has been paid—\$3.4 mil-

lion, *Pacific Daily News* reported Monday.

The landowners are owed the difference of \$21.7 million plus interest at 6 percent per year since 2008, under a court decision from the Superior Court of Guam in 2012.

Chief Legal Counsel Sandra

Miller of the Guam government says it's not clear whether the interest is compounded. She said she isn't aware of any due date for the full amount and interest will accrue "until the date of payment in full."

Miller said the debt could be resolved through ongoing me-

diation that technically started in August. The sides have not met, however.

A former federal judge agreed in August to conduct mediation between the territory, the landowners, the attorney general's office and a federal receiver. But the re-

ceiver's office and attorney general's office declined to participate.

Guam asked the court during a quarterly hearing for an order instructing a federal receiver to help in the mediation, said David Manning, spokesman for the receiver's office.

"It has never been clear to us how we could possibly assist in such a mediation," Manning said. "However, we have offered on several occasions to assist the government in identifying financing options for its unfunded obligations in Solid Waste."

Bordallo raises Compact Impact at FWOIA hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo raised yesterday the issue of Compact Impact during a hearing of the Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. A study by the Government Accountability Office noted that a challenge in justifying increases in Compact Impact for the affected jurisdictions is that the Department of the Interior has not provided the affected jurisdictions with specific guidance on how to measure the true costs of Compact Impact. The Congresswoman urged the Department of the Interior to develop this metric and questioned what challenges the Department is facing in determining the metric.

Bordallo also highlighted

the contributions FAS migrants have made to our community but noted the financial hardships of providing social services to many of these migrants. She reiterated the need for the FAS governments to inform and educate potential FAS migrants about the difficulties of relocation and the need to have a stable job and living situation before they arrive in Guam.

Witnesses included Charles Paul, Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; Asterio Takesy, Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia; Nikolao Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior; and David Gootnick, director of International Affairs and Trade at the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

"The costs incurred by Guam and the other affected jurisdictions for providing social services to Compact migrants continues to far exceed Compact Impact assistance provided by the federal government," said Bordallo. "The GAO has recognized the need for OIA to develop a metric for the affected jurisdictions to accurately measure the true costs of Compact Impact. While I continue to believe that the Compacts are important to our nation's interests, our local governments cannot afford to continue shouldering these costs. I hope that OIA will develop this metric so we can continue to address ways to mitigate the costs incurred by our local governments." (*Office of the Delegate*)

Update on Marine relocation from Okinawa

The Department of the Navy is conducting a thorough assessment of environmental impacts of the relocation of approximately 5,000 Marines and approximately 1,300 family members from Okinawa to Guam. The results, along with a description of the affected environment and the range of alternatives, will be published in a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that will be made available to the public for review and comment in the spring of 2014.

Public input from the citizens of Guam is an integral part of the department's planning efforts.

There have been multiple opportunities to participate and provide public comment during the SEIS process. The first was during the SEIS scoping period

for the Live Fire Training Range Complex SEIS from Feb. 9 to Apr. 6, 2012. Following this scoping period the SEIS was expanded to assess impacts of a reduced number (and changed composition) of Marines going to Guam; and a second scoping period was held from Oct. 11 to Dec. 10, 2012. The next formal opportunity for public involvement will be during the public comment period and public meetings that will follow the release of the Draft SEIS in early 2014.

For information about the proposed military relocation and the associated SEIS process visit our website at <http://guam-buildupeis.us>. You can also sign up at our website to receive notifications when new information is posted.

The relocation of Marines from Japan is part of a realignment plan developed between the United States and Japan, and is critical to the U.S. strategy known as the "rebalance to Asia." The Marines in Guam will maintain our forward presence and conduct engagements necessary to strengthen the defense capabilities of Pacific allies and partners, while making our regional force posture geographically distributed, operationally resilient, and politically sustainable. As the westernmost U.S. territory in the Pacific, Guam offers a strategic location to address emerging challenges in the region to include piracy, terrorism, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. (*Joint Guam Program Office*)

Coffee & Jazz 'Gatsby' party draws 30

The Roaring Twenties were alive and well Saturday night when Coffee & Jazz hosted a "Gatsby" Party with close to 30 guests dressed to the nines in 1920s haut couture.

Operations manager Kayoko "Kay" Irinika said the event was inspired by the 2013 film *Great Gatsby* that starred Leonardo DiCaprio. The film was based on a novel of the same name by American author F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Aside from 1920s fashion, guests also danced and swayed to the era's dance music and were assisted by dance instructors especially hired by Coffee & Jazz for the event. DJ Fade manned the turntables and made sure the party got going until late in the evening.

"We actually had this type of

party idea since last year and we thought it is perfect timing to celebrate the New Year with a dress-up opportunity and with us calling in Russian tourists, too, at our perfect ambiance at Coffee & Jazz," she said.

The "Gatsby" Party also had a Best Costume contest with Shelley Timmons getting the nod for having the most rip-roaring 1920s outfit of the evening. She bested 10 other equally deserving participants.

Aside from Russian tourists, a sprinkling of local residents also showed up for the "Gatsby" Party, some of them regulars of Coffee & Jazz's Latino Night parties, added Irinika.

Guests snacked on tortilla chips and drank bottomless champagne and all sorts of wine and cocktails. (*Mark Rabago*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Around 30 Russian tourists and local residents attended Coffee & Jazz's "Gatsby" Party last Saturday night.



MARK RABAGO

Four Russian guests are dressed to the nines in 1920s haut couture.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Shelley Timmons went home \$500 richer after winning the evening's best costume competition.

Christmas in the Marianas: An escape from winter

Tropical charm was the key to the 12th Annual Christmas in the Marianas that wrapped up this week in Saipan.

Dancers in grass skirts, young musicians strumming ukuleles, and Christmas floats adorned with leaves and flowers were among the highlights of this year's festivities.

Winners of this year's three competitions were announced on Dec. 28, 2013, during the evening's celebration at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan.

Topping the Caroling Competition among elementary schools was Garapan Elementary, followed by Koblerville Elementary and Mt. Carmel Elementary. In the high school division, Kagman High garnered first place for a second year, followed by Mt. Carmel High.

In the Christmas Float Competition, first place honors went to Koblerville Elementary, followed by Kagman Elementary and San Vicente Elementary.



Ukelele instructor Larry Lee, left, leads Ukelele Jammers on Dec. 27, 2013, during the 12th Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration in Saipan. MVA

The annual Christmas in the Marianas is held each December on Saipan. The number of visitors from Japan, Korea,

China, Russia, and other winter-bound countries to the Northern Mariana Islands increases significantly during this time of the

year, including those traveling to celebrate the upcoming Russian Christmas Day and Lunar New Year in January, as well. *(MVA)*



Students of Koblerville Elementary liven up the crowd with a selection of Christmas carols on Dec. 27, 2013, during the 12th Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration in Saipan. MVA



Tanapag Sinsers dancers spread holiday cheers during the 12th Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration on Dec. 29, 2013, in Saipan. MVA

Public warned of high surf today

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management issued a high surf advisory yesterday, warning of hazardous surf that is projected to last until 6am today, Thursday.

"Fresh to occasionally strong winds associated with a shear

line combined with a north swell generated by a cold front east of Japan will create conditions hazardous to small craft through [last] night. A large north swell combined with swell and waves generated by a shear line over the far Northern Marianas will

Welcome home our heroes

The general public is invited to welcome home the members of the Guam Army National Guard 1-294th Infantry Regiment, who are arriving on Saipan from Afghanistan deployment today, Jan. 9, 2014, at approximately 8:05am at the Saipan International Airport.

In honor of their service, Gov. Eloy S. Inos will be on-site that day to welcome the 15 arriving soldiers at the Arrival Area of the Saipan International Airport, followed by a motorcade

from the Saipan International Airport to the Airport Road/Isa Drive Intersection. The general public is encouraged to participate in this event, and display flags and yellow ribbons to show their support for the arriving Guardsmen.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is encouraging community members not to leave their vehicles unattended while at the International Airport.

Please join us in welcoming home our soldiers! *(PR)*

3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Tanapag Meeting Hall, San Jose Beach, and Unai Dangkulo and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water

Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Tuesday. It collects samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 38 locations on the Saipan coast. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. *(DEQ)*

continue to generate hazardous surf on north facing reefs of the Marianas,' the advisory states.

The high surf advisory and small craft advisory remain in effect until 6am today.

"A large north and northeast swell across the Northern Marianas was projected to produce hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet along north facing shores of Saipan and Tinian through last night. Surf heights...should drop below hazardous levels by Thursday morning," the advisory adds.

The advisory cautions the general public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. *(PR)*

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy, happy birthday wishes going out to the one and only, the fierce and fabulous Tracy Lynn Del Rosario, who celebrates her birthday today, Jan. 9. Like fine wine, you get better with age, LOL! Cheers to you and many more years to come! Remember to party like a rock star and to shake what your mama gave ya dao! Have a great birthday weekend! Enjoy and God bless! Much love coming from all your family and friends!



Happy, happy birthday wishes going out to Ms. Arisa Sakai-Peters, who celebrates her birthday today, Jan. 9. Regardless of how old you may be getting you do not look your age, LOL! Wishing you many more birthdays to come and have a great birthday weekend! You are a blessing to us all, cheers to you and many more fabulous years to come! Love always, Charlie Bear and your cubs, your parents, your in-laws, all your former and current students, your SSHS Manta Crew, your MG crew, and your Misadventurers Crew, and most especially from your BFF Charisma!

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 9, 2006

Power vacuum averted

Today will mark the first day in office of Gov.-elect Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov.-elect Timothy P. Villagomez. The new leaders were scheduled to be officially sworn in during a private ceremony at midnight of Jan. 9, 2006 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center. Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Demapan would officiate the oath-taking rites, which would be exclusive to the Fitial and Villagomez families.

'Transcend political differences'

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho offered a message of hope yesterday during a Mass for the Commonwealth's new set of elected leaders. Camacho, who presided at the inaugural Mass, said the new administration could overcome the CNMI's problems by transcending political differences and taking guidance from religion. "My dear honorable ladies and gentlemen: The greatest anxiety that we all share at this point in time is the worsening economy. But I dare say, do not be afraid. If worse comes to worse—which I doubt—I firmly believe that you can handle it," Camacho said in his homily. He noted that the islands had been through worse times, when the all five districts of the then Trust Territory government had an annual budget of \$50 million. "But we have survived," he said.

January 9, 2007

24 questions on the CNMI

The U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources' 24 questions seek information on the CNMI's progress in labor and immigration initiatives, financial assistance received from the federal government, ability to secure its borders, presence of non-U.S. residents, foreign investments, and alleged recruitment kickbacks, among others. The questionnaire, which was sent to the Department of the Interior last month, is divided into four categories: socio-economic; federal-CNMI initiatives; criminal activity/law enforcement; and national security/terrorism. The Senate committee, chaired by New Mexico senator Jeff Bingaman, gave particular weight on socio-economics (11 items) and national security/terrorism (10 questions) categories.

Miller introduces wage hike bill

Democrat Rep. George Miller has formally introduced a new wage bill in Congress raising the minimum wage in the United States, including the Northern Marianas, to \$7.25 per hour. A news release posted on Miller's website said that the bill was introduced on Jan. 5 and will be voted on Jan. 10 [Thursday on Saipan]. "The House of Representatives will vote on the legislation on Wednesday, Jan. 10, as part of the Democratic leadership's 'Six for '06' package of policy initiatives for the first 100 legislative hours of the new Congress," said Miller in the statement. Miller, a longtime critic of the CNMI labor and immigration policies, is the chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

January 9, 2008

Islands' gas prices breach \$4

The two oil companies on the islands increased their prices again on Saipan, the first of the year but the fourth time in the past two months. Saipan Tribune learned that Mobil Oil increased its prices for regular, premium, and diesel fuel by eight cents a gallon effective Monday night. Shell Marianas Inc. also increased its gas prices by eight cents a gallon effective last night. "Shell is again forced to increase our retail price of regular, premium unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel effective at the close of business Jan. 8, 2008," said Shell Marianas president Ruben Domingo.

Hotels' 2007 occupancy drops

The year 2007 proved to be of the most challenging the Saipan hospitality industry has faced since the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands began collecting statistics in 1992. Fourteen leading hotels on island reported an average of 58.89 percent occupancy for the calendar year, a drop from last year's weighted average of 63.43 percent. While 2007 year-end occupancy numbers slumped, room rates increased. At a weighted average of \$92.12, December's rates bested last year's average by \$1.17. This slight rise in room rates is a result of room renovations and overall product enhancements. Association members have made over \$60 million in improvements over the past few years, and continue to open new facilities including children's pools, spas and other improvements to rooms and hotel features.

'Tuna commission measures driven by allocation, not conservation'

HONOLULU—Both the Hawaii-based U.S. longline fishery and the U.S. purse-seine fishery that operate in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean were among those fisheries obliged to accept further fishing restrictions at a recent Pacific tuna commission meeting.

The Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission, of which the United States is a member, met in Cairns, Australia, in the first week of December to adopt various conservation and management measures. Chief among them was a new measure for tropical tunas, namely skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tunas. In 2008, the commission had adopted a three-year measure for yellowfin and bigeye for the years 2009-2011. This measure was continued in 2012 and 2013, but the commission was unable to develop a subsequent comprehensive multi-year measure until this year.

Despite being unjustly cast as the villain in the negotiating process, the United States ceded longline catch and purse-seine fishing effort limits. By contrast, despite being subject to some constraints, the member nations of the Forum Fisheries Agency can continue to expand their tuna fisheries, especially purse seining. The flimsy excuse for this unchecked expansion is that the Pacific Island members of FFA have to bear a disproportionate burden of the conservation measures, though this has yet to be convincingly demonstrated to the United States and

other commission members.

The commission's area of jurisdiction extends from the Asian mainland to the 150 degree line of longitude, which doglegs around French Polynesia south of the equator. Waters to the east of this boundary come under the competence of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, of which the United States is also a member.

The status of bigeye tuna has been a concern for both commissions for the past decade, due to catches being much higher than the maximum sustainable yield. Since the 1950s, most bigeye in the Pacific was caught by longline vessels. Purse-seine vessels targeted skipjack and yellowfin fishing on free schools and caught very little bigeye tuna. However, the increasing use of free floating or tethered rafts, known as fish aggregating devices, and the use of deeper purse-seine nets from the 1980s onwards saw a marked increase in purse-seine caught bigeye, predominantly small juvenile fish.

Management of bigeye by the commission has focused on both purse-seine and longline bigeye catches. Measures for longliners have included setting catch limits for national fleets, based on a reduction from a base year or average of base years. A commission decision in 2008 forced the Hawaii-based longline fishery, to take a 10-percent cut in its bigeye landings from 2009 onwards, resulting in a catch limit of 3,763 metric tons.

The chief measure for purse

seiners has focused on limiting the number of sets made around FADs, with no FAD sets allowed during July and August in 2009-2010, July through September in 2011-2012, and July through October in 2013.

The combination of purse-seine and longline measures was intended to reduce the overall fishing mortality by 30 percent. Both the U.S. longline and purse-seine fisheries abided by CMM 2008-01 and subsequent interim measures in 2012 and 2013. As such, it was hoped that U.S. fisheries would not be further penalized and forced to take additional cuts in the measure for 2014-2017.

Unfortunately, a consensus could not be reached with the other members of the commission unless the U.S. fisheries were subject to additional measures to reduce their bigeye catches. Consequently, the Hawaii-based longline fishery must cut its bigeye catch by a further 10 percent, in two increments in 2015 and 2017. This will reduce the Hawaii-based fishery bigeye catch to 3,345 mt. This further reduction was required for the Hawaii fleet even though most of its fishery does not occur in tropical waters and, unlike the longline fleets of other developed countries, is a fresh fish fishery, with the tuna returning to Hawaii for local consumption.

The four-month closure for U.S. purse-seine vessels will continue in 2014, but equally troublesome to the industry is that the opportunity for high

seas catches by U.S. purse seiners was drastically reduced, to a level of only 1,270 fishing days. Currently, U.S. regulations limit U.S. high seas and U.S. economic zone catches combined to 2,588 fishing days.

These reductions may have a small benefit for WCPO bigeye but are likely to have significant economic consequences for both fisheries. In 2010, the Hawaii longline fishery was closed for 40 days in November and December, a peak time for bigeye demand, with losses to the fishery of millions of dollars and impacts to over 200 jobs in the local seafood industry.

The reductions in U.S. high seas purse-seine catches will likely be around 800 to 1,000 fishing days, which is estimated to have a value of approximately \$50 million. Also, there will be a negative impact on the American Samoan economy, since most of the fish caught on the high seas is landed and processed in American Samoa. Importantly, reductions in high seas catches were not recommended by commission scientists and will not benefit the bigeye stock since it is not FAD fishing that is being reduced but all purse-seine fishing, including that which does not impact bigeye tuna. So this is not a conservation measure but an economic decision, and one that favors other countries to the detriment of the United States.

Although some other countries' fleets will be affected by the 2013 tropical tuna measure, none will be negatively impact-

ed to the same degree as U.S. fisheries. One reason for this is that the commission has no mechanism to ensure compliance, and there is no reason to believe that the many countries involved in the fisheries are strictly following the measures. However, U.S. authorities are vigilant in enforcing the commission's rules against U.S. vessels, so there is not a level playing field. Similarly, unlike catches by other countries, U.S. catches of all fish are scrupulously monitored and reported. Many other longline fleets do not even provide the required reporting information to the commission or its scientists.

Unfortunately, the scope for actions to further reduce fishing mortality on bigeye in the future is rather limited. The measures implemented by the commission refer to the high seas and the exclusive economic zones of the commission member countries, but do not include the near-shore archipelagic waters. This limits the actions that can be taken by the commission while still leaving large sources of bigeye fishing mortality.

Tuna fisheries in the archipelagic waters of the Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, which are based predominantly on FADs, will continue to catch large volumes of juvenile fish during the FAD closure periods. Further, longline fisheries in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands will not be required to limit catches, while Indonesia's longline big-

eye catch will be almost tripled from its current limit of 2,192 mt to 5,889 mt. Indonesia is also treated as if it were one of the small island developing states with respect to fishing capacity. All commission members apart from the SIDS and Indonesia are required to keep their purse-seine and longline fleets at current levels. This leaves significant gaps in the measure to limit fleet expansion and fishing mortality on bigeye.

Both the U.S. longline and purse-seine fleets are iconic fisheries, which have been used as the models for other fleets to emulate in terms of standards for fishery management, including compliance monitoring, data provision and research. However, at the Cairns Commission meeting, it seems that the U.S. fisheries were sacrificed by the negotiators in an unbalanced way and to little overall positive effect for the bigeye stock.

The FFA announced in a recent press release that "it will build on the gains made from the Cairns summit at the next meeting to be held in Samoa." U.S. fishermen by contrast are left wondering how they are going to survive. During the next four years U.S. longline and purse seine fisheries will face increasing competition from other commission members whose fisheries are less severely regulated or, in the case of the SIDS, not required to take cuts in longline bigeye catch or cuts in purse-seine fishing effort. (*Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council*)



INFORMATION SESSION

Northern Marianas College students Margieray Santos and Maria Atrero talk about their college experience at NMC with participants during the recently held Information session. Registration for NMC's upcoming spring 2014 semester begins on Monday, Jan. 13, 2014. For more information, visit www.marianas.edu.

NMC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Making airline security less of a headache

Anybody who has had to pay extra for luggage or an airport soft drink, who has lined up, de-shoed and un-belted, or wedged into a cramped seat in a crammed plane can attest to the fact that air travel has become a chore.

So it is heartening to see that federal agencies are trying to make traveling a little less onerous. First, there was a fall announcement by the Federal Aviation Administration that rules for the use of electronic devices during flights would be relaxed. Now, the Transportation Security Administration is expanding—in a big way—its expedited screening program for low-risk fliers.

PreCheck has been around since October 2011, and about 100 airports offer the expedited lines. Although an expedited security check is not guaranteed, if you are pre-checked, there's a good chance you can avoid pulling off the belt, shedding shoes and taking out the laptop.

But there's been a huge Catch-22: Because of security concerns, you can't simply apply for PreCheck online. You have to personally go to a processing center, talk to a TSA representative, be fingerprinted and show proof of citizenship or legal immigration in order to complete the application. And there were processing centers in only four cities: New York, Los Angeles, Washington and Indianapolis. Recently, Nashville was added. None, you'll note, are close to Dallas/Fort Worth International—the fourth-busiest airport in the country.

This newly announced expansion will place processing centers in 300 airports. D/FW is near the top of the expansion list and should have its center by the end of March.

That will make it much easier for North Texans who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents and have not been convicted of crimes to become a "Trusted Traveler." Getting your number will cost \$85 and take two to three weeks; it is valid for five years. Think of it as getting a passport for air travel.

Such an expansion is much needed for an airline industry that has struggled over the past decade.

With airlines merging and dropping routes, the recession and the inconvenience of post-9/11 security, U.S. air travel has taken a hit. The number of boardings at D/FW in 2012 (the most recent statistics available), for example, is still lower than 10 years ago. Given all the extra inconveniences travelers face these days, anything that can make traveling easier—without compromising security—is a plus.

Beyond that, the TSA's decision offers us hope that government isn't totally impervious to common sense.

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The new reality is camo, thongs and moving the merch

A man said business would get better if I grew a long gray beard and begin wearing camouflage clothing even if I was nowhere near the woods. He said I could have my own reality show, "The Paragraph Factory."

I was skeptical. I do not catch fish in the Bering Sea. I don't cut down huge trees. I sit here and make paragraphs. Most days in the paragraph factory are sort of dull.

I had learned about the paragraph factory from a veteran paragraph-maker who said, "Kid, some people make cars. Some people make beer. We make paragraphs."

Forty years ago, that seemed terribly cynical, but as the years went by, it began to sound like it had come from a burning bush.

Generations of men and women had come to work in the paragraph factory. A few of the men grew beards and mustaches in the years when beards and mustaches were cool, then quickly shaved them off.

Nobody dressed in camo, even the guy on the bait-and-bullet beat, when we had a guy on the bait-and-bullet beat. In early years, the men wore dark suits and hats. When we grew beards in those days, we looked like Hasidic rabbis or Amish elders. Later we wore khakis and rumpled sport coats. The women wore slacks and determined looks.

We manufactured standard paragraphs focused on killings ("slayings"), committees ("panels") and contracts, ("pacts," which were "hammered out" and then "inked").

In the winter we manufactured paragraphs about cold weather and in the summer, to prove our versatility, we would run up some hot weather paragraphs.

What we needed, the man said, was camo. Beards. The women can dress flashier, and they can still be feisty, but they should be willing to clean fish, cook Sunday dinner and raise the young 'uns. That, or dress in tacky fashions and engage in catfights with one another. It's where the audience is, he said.

Life hasn't been the same since.

Whether it was the beard or the camo, I don't know, but I felt liberated. "Don't be afraid to say ignorant or outrageous things," the man said. "Pick fights. Create drama. Unleash some zany antics."

"I'm manufacturing a paragraph about a budget panel inking a pact," I said.

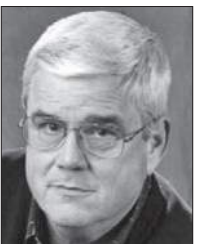
"Throw it out," he advised. "Insult gay people instead. Talk about how you used to work with black folks in the adverb fields, how happy they were, singing as they worked, not asking for welfare. Go upstairs and start a ping-pong tournament in the middle of the factory floor."

So I did. The paragraphs about life in the adverb fields generated controversy galore. I made up some stuff about a gay adverb-picker. I shoved some desks around and installed some ping-pong tables. Lord knows there was plenty of room.

I started a tournament right on the Sunday deadline. The cameras followed me around as I disrupted everyone, getting into several

By KEVIN HERRIGAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

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angry confrontations and spitting into the boss's coffee cup. I told one of the female bosses to go home, clean some fish and take care of her young 'uns.

I got suspended, but the ratings were boffo, so I was reinstated.

Great stuff, the man said, but we need more danger. He said shows about people with dangerous jobs were amazingly popular. "It doesn't have to be real danger," he said. "We can fake that."

I pulled thoughtfully on my beard. Maybe I could get hit in the head with a dangling participle, I offered.

Not good enough, he said. Isn't there some heavy machinery around? Don't some of the trucks that deliver the paragraphs have to drive down icy roads?

Only after an ice storm, I said. But we've got some presses out in the suburbs.

Excellent, he said, and the next thing I knew I was hanging by my beard from a Goss Metroliner Doublewide Offset printing press, screaming for help.

"There's nobody here to help you," the producer explained.

"What about you and the camera crew?"

"The viewers don't know we're here."

"They're that stupid?" I screamed.

"Don't tell anybody," he said.

When my face stopped hurting, the man said, I should start thinking about moving some merch. This is what reality show stars call "merchandise" that ties in to the show. It's where the serious bucks are. Cooking shows sell cookbooks and cookware. Dog shows sell leashes. The "Real Housewives" sell \$28 "Hanky Panky Low Rise Thongs." True.

He said the "Duck Dynasty" guys started out by selling duck calls for about 10 bucks. Now they get as much as \$250 for fancy ones, which are no more effective at summoning ducks than the cheap ones. They have licensing deals for everything else under the sun. No wonder they love America.

Who buys this stuff, I asked.

He said he didn't know, but last week a Pew Center poll said a third of all Americans, and 48 percent of Republicans, believe that "humans and other living things have existed in their present form since the beginning of time."

Think of them as the target audience, he said.

Haf` mohon tinatemu?

Ti apasiguayon manadan dibi...Akague ina`ñau ni mattiru siha. I agapa` ma`añau!

Sige famaguon man-hugando, man-magof gi espiritun solu para man-hoben, ti man-chathinassu haf` agupa` sa` gaige ennau giya hita ni man-amku`.

Manlibre gi ekspressiun niha mientras gaigeyu` gi un` banda manguiguife kau siña bai` bira tatte i rilos `nai hobenyu`. Guinife! Taigue hagas fuetsan hoben.

`Nai mamokatyu` gi plaset cha`guan, estaba un` deñgdeñg sige hanae` animu para u suhaye i buruka. I hafaposgue ha pega fina` dañgsuñg gi santatte. Dumilugyu` para bai` gef atan. `Nai inina kan-det, mañila` lamlam yan dinañae` difirientes kulot. Guaha gi fama-guon gumacha` ya mayamag.

Esta namatman i lamlam lastroña ni ha pega gi santatte. Lamlam. Bai` bira i asunto gi fina` kuestion: Haf` mohon tinattemu` sino pin-igamu kumu rekueddu dispues de malofan hau? Maseha mampos makat este na sakan ya siempre u mas makat na biahe, hahassu este na kuestion gi halom atburotun ginapot mañglo`.

Estrakadan 2014

I estrakadan politika na sakan esta ha tutuhon loglug. I mangaige gi puesto debi u justifika publikamente haf` bidan niha para u adelanta linala` publiku gi nuebe años na tiempu.

Debi u sustansiau asuntoña gi tautau siha. Yangin gai finatsu, pues espihaye fina` katsu maseha pot eskusu estake un` lagnos maisa hau.

I mumalague` chumage iya hululu` na offisina debi lokue` unnae` i publiku programan satbasion. Libianu este majustifici piot sa` i sogniyon i matatachoñg na pilea. Lamegai na asunto `nai matompu`

Syria's Assad: Still the wrong choice

The war in Syria, and the proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia it in part represents, again reared its ugly head in Beirut on Dec. 27 and Jan. 2.

First came the car bomb that killed moderate Lebanese politician Mohamad Chatah and six others. Many in Lebanon consider the killing to be a message from Hezbollah—the Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim militia and Lebanese political party that supports Syrian President Bashar Assad—meant for Saudi Arabia’s surrogates in Lebanon. (Chatah’s March 14 bloc is partly Saudi-backed.) Hezbollah denounced the bombing.

An apparent counter move was not long in coming. A car bomb went off six days later, this time in the Hezbollah-friendly Shiite area of south Beirut, killing four and injuring 70. The latest tragedy was followed by an announcement from extremist Sunni Muslim anti-Assad forces in Syria that they would “enter Lebanon militarily” to act against Hezbollah and force the latter to withdraw its forces from Syria.

This ugly chain of events is yet more evidence that the U.S. cannot ignore the Syrian question, not only because of the humanitarian consequences of the conflict but because the violence is spilling across borders, threatening and destabilizing key partners in the region.

In recent weeks, Ryan Crocker, a former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Kuwait and Lebanon, and Joshua Landis, a Syria scholar and author of two books on the Assad family, have argued that Assad, as bad as he is, is better than the likely alternative in Syria if the war continues. It may be time, Crocker went so far as to suggest, for the U.S. to go back to dealing with Assad.

pinetsigen niha. Makat na kontrariu sa` i asunto gaige gi estomagun familia siha gi señgsoñg.

Trompison siha kontra i tautau ni siha chumahlau pot diskuidon man-ma`gas ha inklusu sumen guaguan na apas kandet, kumahulu` fektos nesessidat, insurers (insurance) hinemlo` yan amot, mien-tras ma-utut pagamienton man-ritirau 25 pot sientu. Dios mihu na kontrariu!

Lau yahu lumie` haf` na estoria para umalapbla ta`lu i publiku gi mayamag “better times”. Kase siña matulaika guatu gi “This Time”. Diberas!

Yangin taya` sustansiau bidamu para un` ayuda i tautau siha gi señgsoñg gi didog na kinahulu` gaston linala`, pues gai mutmora-sion kareramu gi chalan publiku. Makat un` ñega pinadesen i tautau sa` klaru mapadedese pinadesen diskuidon man-ma`gas siha. Haf` mohon?

Konbetsasion

Mampos ha gomgum sensiaghu i pasensia yan antau na inapagat un` saina gi fina` konbetsasion. Klaru na mipasensia yan kabales ha eskohe todú palabra ni ha lagnos ginen i korasoña.

Gi tatten antau na palabra gaige sensian metgot na hinimidde, pas yan konkariñu. Esta hana ma`aggem sentimentoghu i machuchuda` pinasensia yan guinaian kilisyanu. Gi despedida gaige satton na bendision ginen ennau na amku`.

Esta mafaposgue chalan `nai man-mattu hit dispues. Ginen fina-posta lokue` man-eyag pinasensia yan konkariñu piot gi famaguon-ta. Mañge` na siñiente i sensian pas yan inafamauleg gi todus.

Guaha ha` na tautau hayuña na`chaleg`an kumuentos. Guaha lokue`

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



sumen mata`pang yan na`bubu katkuet ora `an ha chalegua`-gue`. `An un` totpé, seha tatte gi sadog pinasensia ya un` trata yan respetu. Siempre umeyag man-respetá gi otrú biahen umafagcha` miyu.

■ ■ ■

Guaha na tautau fresku yan ñahlalañg mataña. Guaha inipos makat na ni guiya mismu tiyaña manai`ña. Ta`lu, pasensiaye sa` ni unu` manae` pudet man-lasgue fasu. I matahu unu sumen na`bubu na katkuet ora kulanyu` mohon i mañagon manog. Lau motmut pinasensia kariñu gi halom korasonhu.

■ ■ ■

Kada hu sugon karetahu, hunanae` destansia yan i tumobet gi me`nahu. Mientras mas hu gachae` mas lokue` hu chaguayu ginen i mefe`na na kareta. Guiya este mafanana`an “defensive driving” `nai un` guaddia sinigonmu pot no un` aksidente.

Lau megai na mansisigon piot i manhoben ti makomprende este na areglu gi chalan. Maseha dikiki` kampu masufa` halom fuetsau. Mauleg sa` gai respetuyu` gi chalan publiku. Pot fabot apagat fama-guon miyu na i tumobet un` makenaria ya ti patte gi tatautau niha.

By NABEEL A. KHOURY
Los Angeles Times

Nabeel A. Khoury is senior fellow for Middle East and national security at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. He retired from the State Department recently after 25 years in the U.S. Foreign Service. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



dictators around the globe in the name of stability.

The statements by Crocker and Landis also ignore basic facts about jihadism. It is not about ruling; rather, it is about fighting and killing. Religious extremism would never be an acceptable form of government to the Syrian people.

For the U.S. and the region, the P5-plus-1 nuclear talks with Iran and the proposed talks in Geneva between the Syrian government and the opposition present an opportunity to demand that Iran show goodwill by facilitating a transition to a coalition government in Syria, one that represents all sects and political groups in that nation. Such an arrangement would, in effect, end the Assad regime.

The bottom line is this: Rather than giving Assad a boost by talking to him, now is the time for the U.S. to encourage Iran (and its backer Russia) to abandon him in favor of a more balanced and representative government in Syria. This would be the right thing for U.S. foreign policy and for the people of the region, including in Lebanon, who are seeing their moderate, gifted leaders eliminated in a brutal crisis spreading throughout the region.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doing a Pontius Pilate

Sen. Pete Reyes’ opinion on the proposed Second Political Status Commission (HB 18-112) essentially wants to “shortcut” a due diligence process by a body of professionals (Political Status Commission) that will research, evaluate, and report an analysis that will provide education and guidance to the CNMI public. This is badly needed in order to make an intelligent decision when presented in an initiative or referendum.

Sen. Reyes’ concern about cost is immaterial and childish at best. How long have you been a lawmaker Sen. Reyes? Haven’t you learn anything about the cost/benefit principle? The political relationship with the United States is of great importance that any and all deviations from the Covenant Agreement that have adverse impacts on the lives and welfare of the CNMI people must be brought to the negotiating table. Methods of discussion include the 902 talks process and the

U.S. delegate. But I doubt the effectiveness of the latter because he works for the federal government and we know where his loyalty lies...not here.

There exists a pattern of unilateral decisions made and implementation of major federal policies in the CNMI without consultation with CNMI leaders and its people, which prompted a proposal to revisit and have a second look at the agreed terms in the Covenant Agreement, particularly the areas on “mutual consent.” The magnitude and seriousness of this issue is such that it warrants a thorough statutory and constitutional review process by an institution such as the Political Status Commission. Cost for such review process as aired as a concern by Sen. Reyes should not be an issue because clearly the senator already lacks the luster and fortitude to do what is right for the CNMI. He wants to wash his hand and give the people a free hand to decide on something that

the majority of them do not understand and need guidance on, Pontius Pilate style. The future of the CNMI is at stake here and Sen. Reyes is concerned about a meager \$100,000 cost to correct a wrong of this magnitude.

Ninety-nine percent of lawmakers in the House of Representatives have the energy and fortitude to do what is right for the CNMI people because they are alert and aware of a pattern of unilateral decisions being made and implementation of major federal policies without proper consultation with CNMI leaders and its people. I hope that the other senators in the Senate have different views from that of Sen. Pete Reyes and Senate President Ralph Torres on the proposed second Political Status Commission.

Joseph A. Sablan
Kagman III, Saipan

Sorry

Dear people of the CNMI: I am writing you this letter to ask you to forgive me for my mistakes of taking wildlife from sanctuary. I realize and understand that what I did was wrong and it brought shame to me and my family. My mistake caused me to experience difficulties and hardships in my life. I went to jail for three days for the offense of conspiracy. I am currently doing community work service ordered by the court and I am staying out of trouble to avoid any other hardship and difficulties. I have learned from my mistake and will further try to be a better person of my community with all my strength. Once again, please forgive me. I am truly sorry and as a promise, this will never happen again.

Bernard B. Camacho
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼76°

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼76°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲68 ▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲36 ▼16
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲64 ▼59
Honolulu	Sunny	▲79 ▼68
London	Showers	▲52 ▼37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼46
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼73
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼60
Miami	Showers	▲73 ▼70
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲25 ▼20
Osaka	Windy	▲47 ▼34
Paris	Showers	▲54 ▼40
Pusan	Windy	▲36 ▼23
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲58 ▼45
Salem	Showers	▲49 ▼43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲58 ▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲26 ▼16
Tokyo	Showers	▲49 ▼31
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲34 ▼27

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
2:20 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
2:02 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N175E to north of Wake Island at 20N166E, then continues as a shear line across Saipan to end near 13N136E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. A few thunderstorms are present northwest of the cold front, northeast of Wake Island. A surface trough extends northwestward from 20N135E to 25N131E. Clouds and showers are found west of Iwo To Island, north of a line from 24N131E to 20N136E to 20N139E. A near-equatorial trough extends east-southwestward through 4N130E to a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 2N148E to end at EQ150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen across the Republic of Palau and Yap state south of a line from 6N130E to 11N144E.

Sunrise/Sunset		
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Thursday	12:42 PM	12:42 AM
Friday	1:26 PM	1:34 AM
Saturday	2:11 PM	2:25 AM
Sunday	2:58 PM	3:16 AM
Monday	3:45 PM	4:06 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA5038	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA5077	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA5079	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5038	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5038	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	D2101	8:30am	2:00pm	3
D2102	2:20am	5:50am	3	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	D2103	7:30pm	1:00am+1	6
OZ6063	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
				OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
D2104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6	OZ6053	9:10pm	2:30am+1	3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5	MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5072	7:35am	5:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:05am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:45am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/473	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 7 via Guam
UA5068/PR111	8:40am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:00am	5:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5039/183	1:35pm	9:30pm	5 via Guam	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5039/183	1:35pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Guam	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5038/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	11:10pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN				

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PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



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Mickey Mouse Toddler Bed
\$79.95



Northwest Territory Air Mattress, Twin Size
\$19.95



Bissel Zing Vacuum
\$79.95



Proctor Silex Steam Iron Retail
\$13.95



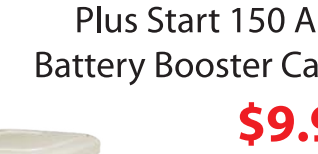
The Great Find 8.75 Wall Clock
\$6.95



Timex Set & Forget Wall Clock
\$19.95



Black & Decker 12 Volt Cordless 83 Piece Project Kit
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Disney Music & Lights Walker
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Northwest Territory Deluxe Folding Chair with Arms
\$10.95



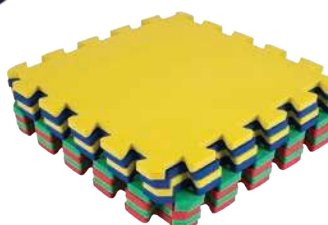
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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Nation

Polar air is blamed for 21 deaths nationwide

By RAY HENRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA (AP)—Fountains froze over, a 200-foot Ferris wheel in Atlanta shut down, and Southerners had to dig out winter coats, hats and gloves they almost never have to use.

The brutal polar air that has made the Midwest shiver over the past few days spread to the East and the Deep South on Tuesday, shattering records that in some cases had stood for more than a century.

The mercury plunged into the single digits and teens from Boston and New York to Atlanta, Birmingham, Nashville and Little Rock—places where many people don't know the first thing about extreme cold.

"I didn't think the South got this cold," said Marty Williams, a homeless man, originally from Chicago, who took shelter at a church in Atlanta, where it hit a record low of 6 degrees. "That was the main reason for me to come down from up North, from the cold, to get away from all that stuff."

The morning weather map for the eastern half of the U.S. looked like an algebra worksheet: lots of small, negative numbers. In fact, the Midwest and the East were colder than much of Antarctica.

The cold turned deadly for some: Authorities reported at least 21 cold-related deaths across the country since Sunday, including seven in Illinois, and six in Indiana. At least five people died after collapsing while shoveling snow, while several victims were identified as homeless people who either refused shelter or didn't make it to a warm haven soon enough to save themselves from the bitter temperatures.

In Missouri on Monday, a 1-year-old boy was killed when the car he was riding in struck a snow plow, and a 20-year-old woman was killed in a separate crash after her car slid on ice and into the path of a tractor-trailer.

In a phenomenon that forecasters said is actually not all that unusual, all 50 states saw freezing temperatures at some point Tuesday. That included Hawaii, where it was 18 degrees atop Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano.

mant volcano.

The big chill started in the Midwest over the weekend, caused by a kink in the "polar vortex," the strong winds that circulate around the North Pole. By Tuesday, the icy air covered about half the country, and records were shattered like icicles up and down the Eastern Seaboard.

It was 1 degree in Reading, Pa., and 2 in Trenton, N.J. New York City plummeted to 4 de-

grees; the old record for the date was 6, set in 1896.

"It's brutal out here," said Spunkiy Jon, who took a break from her sanitation job in New York to smoke a cigarette in the cab of a garbage truck. "Your fingers freeze off after three minutes, your cheeks feel as if you're going to get windburn, and you work as quick as you can."

Farther south, Birmingham, Ala., dipped to a low of 7, four

degrees colder than the old mark, set in 1970. Huntsville, Ala., dropped to 5, Nashville, Tenn., got down to 2, and Little Rock, Ark., fell to 9. Charlotte, N.C., reached 6 degrees, breaking the 12-degree record that had stood since 1884.

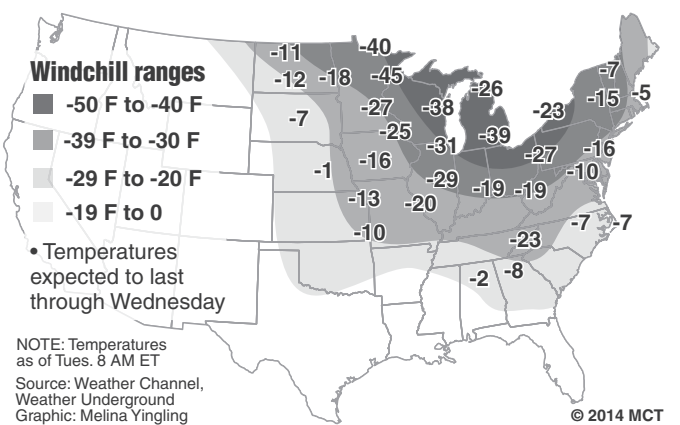
The deep freeze dragged on in the Midwest as well, with the thermometer reaching minus 12 overnight in the Chicago area and 14 below in suburban St. Louis.



Tessa Lind examines icicles hanging from a tree in the yard of her home, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014, in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. AP

Below freezing

A blast of Arctic air has caused air temperatures across the U.S. to plunge, with half of the population placed under a wind chill warning or cold weather advisory.



Ex-NY police officers charged in disability scam

NEW YORK (AP)—One retired police officer who told the government he was too psychologically damaged to work ran a martial arts studio, prosecutors said. Another claimed his depression was so crippling it kept him house-bound, but he was photographed aboard a watercraft, they said. A third man who said he was incapable of social interactions manned a cannoli stand at a street festival.

All were wrongly receiving thousands of dollars in federal disability benefits, prosecutors said Tuesday in announcing a sweeping fraud case involving scores of retired officers, firefighters and jail guards. The retirees faked psychiatric prob-

lems, authorities said, and many falsely claimed their conditions arose after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The brazenness is shocking," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said.

More than 100 people were arrested, including 72 city police officers, eight firefighters, five correction officers and one Nassau County Police Department officer.

Four ringleaders coached the former workers on how to feign depression and other mental health problems that allowed them to get payouts as high as \$500,000 over decades, Vance said. The ringleaders made tens of thousands of dollars in secret kickbacks, he said.

Fla. executes man who killed guard, couple

STARKE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida inmate was executed Tuesday for fatally stabbing a prison guard with a sharpened spoon while on death row for abducting and killing a Miami couple.

Askari Abdullah Muhammad, previously known as Thomas Knight, was pronounced dead at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday after a lethal injection at Florida State Prison, the governor's office said. The execution took place in the same prison where Muhammad killed corrections officer Richard Burke in 1980.

"This is where my dad took his last breath," said the slain guard's daughter, 47-year-old Carolyn Burke Thompson. She was among several family members who witnessed the execution and could be seen crying in the front row as it was carried out.

"The system finally has worked. I am at peace knowing I don't have to wait any longer. I miss my dad a lot," she said.

Muhammad, 62, was initially condemned to die for the 1974 abduction and killings of Sydney and Lillian Gans of Miami. Tuesday's execution was specifically for Burke's killing.

Muhammad was visited by

his four sisters Monday and earlier Tuesday by a friend. He declined to make any statement before the sentence was carried out. A small group opposed to the death penalty protested outside the prison.

His execution was delayed for so long by numerous appeals and rulings, including a 1987 federal appeals court tossing out his original death sentence because he hadn't been allowed to put character and background witnesses on the stand during the penalty phase.

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear his final appeals, but Justice Stephen Breyer said in a dissent he would have granted a stay to hear Muhammad's claims that it may be unconstitutional to execute an inmate after such a long time on death row.

Court documents show that Muhammad fatally stabbed Burke as he was being escorted to the prison shower. The inmate had become upset, the documents say, because he was told he couldn't see a visitor unless he shaved his full beard. The documents added he had been overheard by guards to remark that "it looks like I'll have to start sticking people."

Ohio police: Man stopped for speeding had 48 bombs

LONDON, Ohio (AP)—A man stopped for speeding in Ohio was charged with illegally making or possessing an explosive device after nearly 50 bombs and four guns were found in his vehicle.

Andrew Scott Boguslawski, 43, was arrested late New Year's Day on Interstate 70 west of Columbus. Investigators found two

pistols, two rifles, 48 explosive devices and tools and materials to make additional explosives, according to The (London) Madison Press (<http://bit.ly/1gBVmT>). Also inside was a remote detonating device, Assistant Madison County Prosecutor Nick Adkins said.

Investigators are trying to determine why the man had the

arsenal. He faces a court hearing Friday in Madison County.

According to the state trooper who stopped him for going 85 mph in a 70-mph zone, Boguslawski said he had no weapons. However, the officer returned with a ticket and saw the handle of a gun between the man's knees.

"At that point, he drew his service weapon, held the man

there and called for backup," said Adkins.

Boguslawski told authorities he has an attorney, but none was listed on the court docket. There was no phone listing for the street address listed for him on court records.

Adkins said a \$1 million bond set for the defendant reflected the possible risk to the public.

Asia

Indian political brawling shows rape a voter issue

NEW DELHI (AP)—The 16-year-old reported that she had been gang raped, only to be raped again by the same men the next day and later threatened for going to the police in eastern India. By the time charges were filed more than two months later, she had been set on fire and died from her injuries.

The girl's death on New Year's Eve in West Bengal came more than a year after a

deadly gang rape in New Delhi raised awareness and outrage over chronic sexual violence in India and government failures to protect women. The New Delhi rape was considered a major reason for why voters ousted the capital's government last month, and a furious response to the West Bengal case suggests that with general elections just months away, politicians are anxious to impress

voters who are demanding that women's safety become a police priority.

The teen's family, allegedly run out of town by her assailants, accuses police of trying to cover up the crimes.

Improving sensitivity by police officers and medical workers is crucial to improving women's safety in this country of 1.2 billion, activists say. Even as the government has promised

to improve justice for rape victims, some trying to report sexual crimes have said they were harassed by officers making lewd comments, demanding bribes or simply shooing them away.

The girl reported being gang raped on Oct. 25 and 26, but Kolkata police did not arrest anyone until the girl ended up in a hospital Dec. 23 with severe burn injuries. Doctors then determined she was pregnant. Police initially told reporters she had attempted suicide, but the girl's family disputed that, saying she was set on fire by as-

sociates of those who had gang raped her.

After the girl's death led to a public uproar, police arrested and charged six suspects in the gang rapes and another two accused by the girl of setting her alight. A fast-track court will hold a first hearing in the both cases Jan. 15. Meanwhile, a forensic laboratory is determining the age of the girl's fetus in order to establish whether she became pregnant from the rapes.

The case has reinforced the widespread view in India that police are a major part of In-

dia's chronic problem with sexual violence.

Massive protests erupted in Kolkata, with critics including artists, rights activists and opposition politicians saying authorities ignored the family's complaints of harassment and moved too slowly to arrest the suspects.

Critics question why police filed a case over the first reported gang rape, but not the second. Both the opposition and the girl's taxi driver father are demanding that federal investigators take over the case.

2 icebreakers trapped in Antarctica break free

BEIJING (AP)—A Russian research ship at the center of an Antarctic rescue drama has broken free from heavy pack ice, officials confirmed on Wednesday, hours after a Chinese icebreaker that became trapped while trying to help the *Akademik Shokalskiy* also freed itself and was heading for open waters.

The *Akademik Shokalskiy* had been trapped in ice-clogged Commonwealth Bay since Christmas Eve, while the Chinese ship that came to its rescue, *Xue Long*, or *Snow Dragon* in Chinese, reported last week it too was stuck.

But the *Snow Dragon* was able to use its helicopter to retrieve 52 scientists, journalists and tourists from the Russian ship. They are now on their way home aboard an Australian icebreaker, *Aurora Aus-*

tralis.

The Chinese official Xinhua News Agency reported from the *Snow Dragon* on Tuesday that it successfully escaped after making a 100-degree turn and pushing away the ice, and opening up a channel of water.

Russia's state news agency ITAR-Tass reported that the *Akademik Shokalskiy*, with its crew who had stayed on board, was making its way out of the dense ice on its own.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority's Rescue Coordination Centre, which is responsible for rescues in the region, said it was informed early Wednesday that both ships had managed to break free and were making slow progress through lighter ice conditions toward open water.

The *Snow Dragon* had advised that it no longer re-

quired further assistance. The center was awaiting confirmation from the Russian ship on Wednesday that it also did not require further assistance.

A U.S. Coast Guard heavy icebreaker, *Polar Star*, cut short an Australian stopover on Sunday to head to the rescue of the two icebreakers by clearing a navigational path through Commonwealth Bay. The journey from Sydney was expected to take the 122-meter (399-foot) cutter a week.

"*Polar Star* will continue to head toward the area until it is clear that both vessels are free of the ice field and no longer in danger," the center said in a statement.

The center did not give other details on how the ships escaped the ice, but favorable wind conditions forecast this week were expected to help.



Indian people hold placards and candles as they participate at a candle light vigil as they mark the first anniversary of a young woman's demise after the fatal gang rape, in New Delhi, India, Sunday, Dec. 29, 2013. The victim, a 23-year-old physiotherapy student, became a rallying cry for tens of thousands protesting the treatment of women.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Fire engulfs 3 Indian train cars, killing 9

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Indian railway officials say nine people died after a fire engulfed three cars of a passenger train as it was traveling from Mumbai to the Himalayan town of Dehradun. The Press Trust of India news agency quoted Western Railway official Sharat Chandra as saying nine people died in the blaze. Authorities are trying to determine what caused the fire to break out before dawn Wednesday as most passengers were sleeping. Chandra says officials are working to identify those killed. Police say another four people were injured. The train was stopped in the town of Gholvad in Maharashtra state where firefighters put out the flames.

Ex-NBA player says NKorea game dwarfed by politics

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Former NBA star Charles D. Smith says he feels remorse for coming to Pyongyang with Dennis Rodman for a game on the North Korean leader's birthday because the event has been dwarfed by politics and tainted by Rodman's own comments. Smith and other former NBA players are scheduled to play with Rodman against a team of North Koreans on Wednesday that organizers say leader Kim Jong Un is expected to attend. Many of the players on Tuesday privately expressed second thoughts about going ahead because of an outpouring of criticism back home in the United States. Smith, who played for the New York Knicks, said the North Korea trip has been dwarfed by politics and Rodman's frequent boasts about his close friendship with Kim.

China sentences man to death for

making gutter oil

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese court on Tuesday sentenced a man to death and two others to life imprisonment for producing and selling dirty cooking oil, state media reported. The black-market trade of recycled kitchen oil known as "gutter oil," which can contain carcinogens, has been a chronic problem in China. The official Xinhua News Agency said the court in Jinan city in eastern Shandong province also sentenced seven other defendants in the case to five to 15 years in prison and fined them each up to 2 million yuan (\$330,000). Xinhua said three brothers began to produce the tainted oil in 2006 and sold it to 17 dealers in Shandong and Shanxi provinces for 52.4 million yuan (\$8.6 million). One brother, Zhu Chuanfeng, was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve for producing and selling poisonous and harmful food. Such sentences are usually commuted to life imprisonment.

Over 350 in Japan sickened by tainted frozen food

TOKYO (AP)—More than 350 people have been sickened across Japan after eating frozen food products that may have been tainted with a pesticide, Japanese public broadcaster NHK reported. Food maker Maruha Nichiro Holdings began recalling 6.4 million packages of various frozen foods on Dec. 29, saying it found some were tainted by high levels of pesticides. The company has received hundreds of thousands of calls about the problem. It used full-page advertising space in Japan's major newspapers Wednesday to apologize and warn consumers not to eat any of the tainted frozen food, including pizza, croquettes and pancakes manufactured in one factory in Gunma Prefecture, north of Tokyo.

Taliban deny sending girl to attack Afghan police

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

The Taliban denied Tuesday that they dispatched a 10-year-old girl to carry out a suicide attack against Afghan police, a day after the girl said her brother wrapped her in an explosives-packed vest but that she refused to blow herself up at a checkpoint in Helmand province.

Border police in the southern Afghan province arrested the girl's father, Abdul Ghfar, and were searching for the brother, a police commander said. The girl, who was detained Monday and identified herself only as Spozhmai, said her brother is a Taliban commander.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahamdi denied any involvement in the alleged plot, which he dismissed as government propaganda.

"We never do this, especially with girls," he said.

Spozhmai spoke to journalists Monday after Afghanistan's Interior Ministry announced her detention and said she was just 10 years old.

Addressing television cameras, she said her brother, named Zahir, told her to approach a checkpoint and ask the deputy



In this Monday, Jan. 6, 2014 photo, an Afghan girl named Spozhmai is held in a border police station in the Khan Neshin district in the south-eastern part of Helmand province, Afghanistan.

commander for a ride with him to neighboring Kunar province.

"I agreed, then he attached the vest on my body and told me to spend the night here and leave in the morning," she said.

But after she and her brother spent the night somewhere, she said she had second thoughts.

"I said I won't go, then he took off the vest and tried to convince me that they (police) will die and I will remain alive," Spozhmai said. She said her brother then fled with the vest.

Police said they believed her

account.

"The guy named Zahir had the suicide vest and escaped, but she was still there and when our commander of the battalion heard her voice, they surrounded the area and brought this girl to their base, and we all heard her story on how she was forced into this action," Col. Hamidullah Sediqi said.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned the Taliban, saying that "using a child as a suicide bomber is un-Islamic and goes against Afghan culture and beliefs."

World

Iraqi government: Airstrike kills 25 militants

BAGHDAD (AP)—A government airstrike killed 25 al-Qaida-linked militants in a besieged province west of Baghdad amid fierce clashes Tuesday between Iraqi special forces and insurgents battling for control of the key cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, Iraqi officials said.

The al-Qaida gains in the Sunni-dominated province of Anbar—once bloody battle-grounds for U.S. troops—pose the most serious challenge to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite-led government since the departure of American forces in late 2011.

Iraqi forces and fighters from government-allied Sunni tribes have been battling militants to try to recapture the strategic territory, seized last week by an al-Qaida-linked group known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

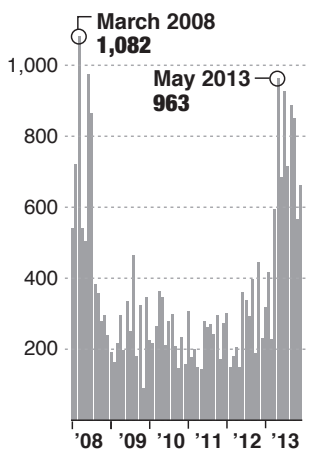
Iraqi military spokesman Gen. Mohammed al-Askari said the Iraqi air force struck an operations center for the militants on the outskirts of Ramadi, the provincial capital, killing 25 fighters who were holed up inside.

He didn't give more details about how the death toll was confirmed but cited intelligence reports. It was not possible to independently verify the military's claim.

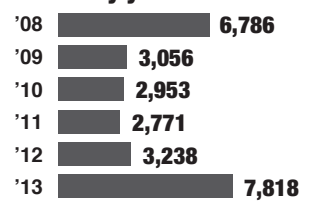
The airstrike came after clashes erupted about 12 miles (20 kilometers) west of Fallujah following the capture of an army officer and four soldiers in the area a day earlier, provincial

Iraqi civilian deaths increase

The number of Iraqis killed in terrorist attacks has risen dramatically and is the highest since 2008. Deaths by month:



Deaths by year



Source: United Nations
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2014 MCT

spokesman Dhari al-Rishawi told The Associated Press.

There was no immediate word on casualties for those clashes.

Al-Maliki's government has vowed to rout the militants, calling on Fallujah residents Monday to expel the al-Qaida fighters to avoid an all-out battle.

Iraq's Cabinet met Tuesday to discuss the situation in Anbar and called for the mobilization of all efforts "to support the army and security services in

expelling terrorists," according to a government statement.

Military operations would continue, the Cabinet statement added, until Iraq is "cleansed" of terrorism.

In Washington, the Army general who led U.S. forces through some of the deadliest years of the Iraq war said he opposes sending U.S. combat troops in response to the recent gains by militants in Anbar province. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno said he was disappointed by the Iraqi government's loss of control of strategic territory, but the U.S. approach now should be to remain engaged diplomatically to help Iraqi government leaders get their political system back on track.

Residents of Fallujah have been streaming out of the city, 40 miles west of Baghdad, fearing an impending assault, according to witnesses.

A medical official in Fallujah said two civilians were killed and five were wounded, including two children, when they were caught Tuesday in an exchange of fire between militants and Iraqi army troops south of the city. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to release information.

The immediate trigger for the unrest was the Dec. 28 arrest of a Sunni lawmaker sought on terrorism charges, followed by the government's dismantling of a months-old anti-government Sunni protest camp in Ramadi.

Ex-Miss Venezuela slain in highway robbery

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A former Miss Venezuela and her ex-husband were shot and killed and their 5-year-old daughter wounded when they resisted robbers by locking themselves inside their car after tire punctures disabled it on an isolated stretch of highway, police said Tuesday.

The slaying of Monica Spear, 29, a popular soap-opera actress, and Thomas Henry Berry, a 39-year-old British citizen, was the latest high-profile crime in a country where killings are common in armed robberies and where rampant kidnapping has ensnared even foreign ambassadors and professional baseball players.

Monday's killings followed a pattern in Venezuela of late-night assaults carried out by disabling cars with obstacles placed on roadways or by removing sewer covers.

Spear and Berry were slain at about 10:30 p.m. between Puerto Cabello, the country's main port, and the provincial capital of Valencia. They were returning from vacation to Caracas on a badly maintained stretch of highway that



In this May 31, 2005 file photo, Monica Spear, Miss Venezuela 2005, competes at the Miss Universe competition in Bangkok, Thailand.

is lightly traveled at that hour.

Their four-door sedan hit "a sharp object that had been placed on the highway" which punctured at least two of its tires, the director of the country's investigative police, Jose Gregorio Sierralta, told reporters.

Two tow trucks arrived al-

most immediately afterward, said Sierralta, and the attack occurred after the car had been lifted onto one of the trucks.

Seeing the assailants coming, the travelers locked themselves inside and the assailants fired at least six shots, he said.

"They fired with viciousness," President Nicolas Maduro said of the attackers in comments to state TV.

Police in Puerto Cabello arrested five suspects, some under the age of 18, Sierralta added. It could not immediately be determined if Spear and Berry had called the tow trucks, or if any of the drivers were among those arrested for suspected involvement in the killings.

The daughter, Maya, was in stable condition after treatment for a leg wound and was with relatives in Caracas, said Sierralta.

The family had spent New Year's in the mountains of the western state of Merida then traveled to the plains, said Luis Carlos Dominguez, a longtime friend and former business associate of Berry. He said Berry was raised in Venezuela and ran a travel agency.



DANCE OF DEVILS

A man with a devil's mask dances in La Diablada in Pillaro, Ecuador, Monday, Jan. 6, 2014, to celebrate the end of the year and the start of the new one. The town of Pillaro kicks off the feast of La Diablada with neighborhoods competing to bring in as many people as possible dressed as different characters. Originally the devil costume was used to open up space to allow other participants to dance, but over the years the character gained popularity and became the soul of the feast.

First batch of chemical weapons taken out of Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—The first batch of the most dangerous chemicals in Syria's arsenal was loaded onto a Danish ship and taken out of the country Tuesday under tight security, an important milestone in the international operation to rid President Bashar Assad of the weapons by midyear.

The operation at Syria's port of Latakia took place against the backdrop of a widening civil war and escalating infighting between a chaotic mix of Syrian rebel brigades and an al-Qaida linked militant group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

With the rebel-on-rebel fighting now in its fifth day, the shadowy leader of another faction affiliated with al-Qaida pleaded with his

comrades to stop the spreading clashes, warning it threatened to upend gains made against Syrian government forces.

The chemicals were supposed to have been removed from Syria by Dec. 31, but poor security, bad weather and other factors meant the deadline was missed by a week.

The raw materials—precursor chemicals for poison gas—were moved to the government-held port of Latakia from two sites in Syria and loaded onto the Danish cargo ship, which then set sail, said Sigrid Kaag, the Dutch diplomat coordinating the joint mission by the U.N. and Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

"The vessel has now left the

port of Latakia for international waters," Kaag said in a statement. "It will remain at sea awaiting the arrival of additional priority chemical materials at the port."

Security for the highly toxic cargo is being provided by warships from Russia, China, Denmark and Norway.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the progress.

The chemicals removed Tuesday will eventually be transferred to a U.S. ship, the Cape Ray, which has been fitted with special machinery. Once aboard the American vessel, the materials will be placed in a titanium reactor that uses heated water and other chemicals to render the weapons inert.

Environment

With advent of 2014, lights go out on incandescent bulb

By KATE MARTIN
THE NEWS TRIBUNE (TACOMA, WASH.)

TACOMA, Wash.—Thomas Edison’s first public demonstration of the incandescent light bulb happened 134 years ago Tuesday.

But on Wednesday, the lights dimmed for the incandescent because of federal energy efficiency standards approved in 2007.

As of Jan. 1, companies no longer can import or make 60- and 40-watt incandescent light bulbs—the most popular bulb for indoor lighting. Instead, LED (light-emitting diode) and CFL (compact fluorescent) will replace incandescents as the dominant home fixture.

The new light bulbs reduce energy use and save consumers money. Experts say 90 percent of the electricity used by traditional incandescent light bulbs is radiated in the form of heat, rather than light.

While the bulb ban prevents the manufacture or import of incandescents, shoppers still can find the bulbs on the shelves. Since people have known the ban was coming for some time, there were no last-minute crowds shopping for incandescents Tuesday, Fred Meyer spokeswoman Melinda Merrill said.

Traditional 75- and 100-watt incandescent bulbs were to be phased out at the beginning of 2013. Home Depot stores in some areas of the country have a six-month supply of incandescent bulbs. Merrill said Fred Meyer has a two-month supply of various incandescent bulbs.

“The CFLs have become

more popular and LEDs have become more popular,” she said.

Lighting is no minor matter at the Tacoma Art Museum, where three galleries are lit with ceramic metal halide lamps. That has allowed the museum to reduce the number of fixtures it has and save money at the same time.

One gallery, which houses the museum’s collection of Chihuly glass, still uses incandescent lighting at Dale Chihuly’s request, said museum director Stephanie Stebich.

“He prefers a warmer, hotter light and it makes the vessels glow,” she said.

The museum is stockpiling some incandescent bulbs, but eventually it and the artist will have to decide what type of illumination to switch to.

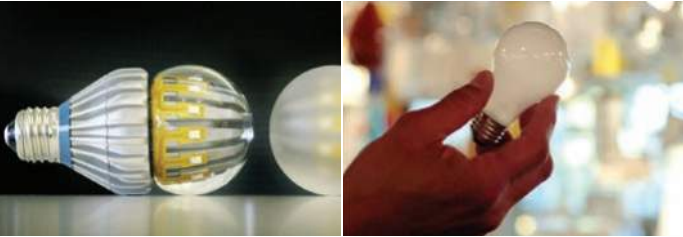
“As usual we will do testing and bring the artist in,” said museum registrar Jessica Wilks. “Dale is aware of these things.”

Early on, the CFL was met with lots of criticism. The lights flickered, took a while to attain full brightness and emitted a harsher light than the warm, familiar incandescent. Much of that has changed as manufacturers began adding features.

And the price of bulbs dropped as competition increased, said Tacoma Power’s Patrick Urain, the retail program manager who concentrates on residential energy conservation.

Residents who switch out 80 percent of their old, energy-inefficient incandescent bulbs can expect to see a corresponding drop in their utility bill, between \$6 and \$7 per month. Urain said.

Some public utilities offer incentives to help bring down the



AP This combination of Associated Press file photos shows, left, Switch75 light LED bulbs in clear and frosted, on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011 in New York and a 100-watt incandescent light bulb at Royal Lighting in Los Angeles on Jan. 21, 2011. LEDs use 70 percent to 80 percent less power than incandescent light bulbs. According to the Energy Department, widespread use of LED bulbs could save the output of the equivalent of 44 large power plants by 2027.

cost of qualified CFL and LED bulbs. The utility offers incentives because when customers use less energy the utility is less likely to have to buy expensive power from outside sources to

supplement demand, Urain said.

The use of LED and CFL bulbs will reduce the environmental impact of commercial and residential lighting, and save consumers money, said Kevin Hallinan, a University of Dayton engineering professor and co-founder of the school’s master’s degree program in renewable and clean energy.

“The reason why the federal government legislated the change is because these incandescent bulbs use four times or more energy than other technologies,” Hallinan said. “That’s more pollution coming out of power plants, that’s more carbon emissions, so this is really a good thing for the U.S.”

Urain said consumers need to look for an Energy Star rated bulb. Those bulbs should work as advertised in terms of energy use and the life of the bulb.

Because of the change, light bulb brightness is now rated differently. The old method, used with incandescents, was a measure of energy use. A 60-watt incandescent bulb is now roughly equivalent to a 15-watt CFL. Light output is measured in lumens. A 60-watt incandescent bulb and a 15-watt CFL will put out roughly 800 lumens, according to Tacoma Power.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Vicente Muna Dela Cruz

Better known as “Tun Ben”

Born on September 25, 1957 was called home by our heavenly father at the age of 56 on January 01, 2014

In his new life, he now joins his:

- Parents:** †Manuel Lizama Dela Cruz
†Blandina Muna Cabrera
†Vicente Sablan
- Maternal Grandparents:** †Soledad Cabrera Muna
- Paternal Grandparents:** †Pedro Salas Dela Cruz
†Dolores Lizama Dela Cruz
- Daughter:** †Lucrecia Leonisa Quitugua
- Godfather:** †Henry Carl. V. Hofschneider
- Brothers/Sisters & Spouses:** †Soledad Muna Dela Cruz & †Henry Santos
†Ignacia Muna Dela Cruz
†Antonio Muna Dela Cruz
†Francisco Muna Dela Cruz
†Dolores Muna Dela Cruz
†Sylvia LG. & Anthony Rupley
†Manuel P. Quitugua
- Parents In Law:** †Emilio Q. Toves
- Nephew & Nieces:** †Elpedia DLC. Santos
†Joseph Anthony DLC. Santos
†Ray Anthony DLC. Santos
†Nasha Marie T. Dela Cruz
†Gabriel Pedro DLC. Santos

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

- Wife:** Carmelita Quitugua Dela Cruz
- Children/Spouse/Grandchildren/Great Grandchildren:**
Jennifer Lynn Weger & Patrick C. Dilla – Children: Janice Marie, Deanna Lynn, Benjamin Jr. (Collen Jeriba, Jolyssa Jade), Jerome Peter, TinaAnn, John Jr., Vince/Janeace (Aiden Jace), Kalani, & Lakisha
Daniel Edward & Dedra Dela Cruz – Children: Darrien, Damian, & Dillen
†Lucrecia Leonisa Quitugua – Children: Joseph Ramon & Ali’ikai Joe
Lawrence Gabriel Dela Cruz & Rita Bernice Borja – Children: Shmiko & Skyler
Carla Marie Dela Cruz & Joaquin Palacios – Children: Manuel Vicente, Malinao Tasi, Agustin Tudela, John Christian, Ha’nai Darence, LeTrishia Ina
Victoria Marie Dela Cruz & Gregory Cruz – Children: Raymond Jermaine
- Brothers, Sisters and In Laws:**
†Soledad DLC. & †Henry Santos (†Gabriel & Grace, Josephine & Walter, Josepha & James, †Elphedia, Henry Jr. & Vicky, †Joseph, †Ray Anthony, Lucy Ann & Michael, Ramon Francisco & Marie)
†Antonio M. & Jesusa Dela Cruz (Melissa, Vicki & Donald, Rose Ann & Will, John Anthony & Jormalou, Antonio Jr. & Francine, Robert & Rowena, Chris, Rozabel & Mike, Sandra & Wayne, Dannell, Tonyo & Francine, Connie, Mariano Manuel, Randy, Aisha
Carmen DLC. & Don A. Farrell (Shari, Richard & Celina, Darcy & Jackie)
Ramon M. & Dolores Dela Cruz (Peter John, Valerie & Robert, Raymond Jr. & Mary Ann, Peter & Elaine, Sheila & Henry Jr., Jennifer, Marian & Alfonso Jr., Eugene & Jennifer, Mathew & Mary, Eva & Anthony)
†Francisco M. & Anita Dela Cruz (Laura Lynn & Richard, Francisco Jr. & Rosa, Manel Joseph & Laila, Luke Vincent & Michelle Antoniette Agnes & Andy, Jesse Moses & Morab, Doris Ann & Michael)
Cynthia DLC. & Marciano Takasi (Brigitte & Mario, Marciano & Claudia, Teruko & Christopher, Jessica & Edwin)
Jose M. & Enriqueta Dela Cruz (Marjorie & Richard, Joanna & James, Soledad & Mario)
Edward M. Dela Cruz & Inez F. Sandbergen (Kevin & Francine, Jason, Edilene Danielle & Kelvin, Edward II, Reggae, Benny, Zoe Zinnia, Baltazar, Nicole)
Lucia M. Dela Cruz/Therese F. Acosta (Lenae Anne)
Manuel Quitugua
John Quitugua
Vicente & Dorothy Quitugua
Anthony Quitugua
Daryl & Corrine Quitugua
Tina Quitugua
Michael Quitugua & Doris Ann Dela Cruz
Norma Jeanne Quitugua/Ignacio Guerrero
- Godparents:** Magdalena M. Hofschneider & Herman M. Manglona
- He will be greatly missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, great nieces, great nephews and wonderful friends.
- Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:45 p.m. at San Jose Church, Tinian. Techa: Rosa P. Aquiningoc
His remains will be taken from the THC Morgue to his residence on Friday, January 10, 2014, 6:00p.m. for bela. Rosary will be at 7:45 p.m. Final Rosary/Responso will be held at 8:00 a.m. on January 11, 2014 at San Jose Church beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 9:45 a.m. Mass for Christian Burial will be offered at 10:00 a.m., interment will follow.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Juan Sablan Cepeda

Better known as “Juan German”
December 19, 1942 – January 5, 2014

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Father: Juan Cepeda
Mother: Hildegarda Tudela Sablan Cepeda

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of His:

Children: Ana Maria S.N. & Iosefatu Tuigamala (Children, Grand and Great Grandchildren)
Petra S.N. & Richard Dela Cruz (Children, Grand and Great Grandchildren)
Ramon SanNicolas & †Lisa Ann Sablan (Children and Grandchildren)
Marc John B. Cepeda
Christian B. Cepeda
Anestacia “Ana” B. Cepeda

Brothers and Sisters and In-Laws:

†Vicente Sablan & Manuela Cepeda and Children, Petra Cepeda & John Sibling and Children, †Anestacia Cepeda & †Jose Pangelinan and Children, Jose Sablan Cepeda and Children

He will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Funeral Service is scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 2014.
Viewing and Last Respects will be held from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and
Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. at Victory Chapel, in Chalan Piao
across Hopwood Jr. High School. Burial Service will follow immediately
at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu’us Ma’ase and Thank You for your thoughts and prayers

Children and Families

Life & Style

Dads to diapers and more, myth-busting survey says

CHICAGO (AP)—The detached dad, turning up his nose at diapering and too busy to bathe, dress and play with his kids, is mostly a myth, a big government survey suggests. Most American fathers say they are heavily involved in hands-on parenting, the researchers found.

The nationally representative survey shows fathers' involvement has increased slightly since the government first asked in 2002, coinciding with research since then that bolsters the benefits of hands-on fathering.

The results are encouraging and important "because others have found the more involved dads are, the better the outcomes for their children," said researcher Jo Jones of the National Center for Health Statistics, part of the Centers for Disease Con-

trol Prevention. She co-authored the report released Friday.

More academic success, fewer behavior problems and healthier eating habits are just some of the ways fathers' involvement has been linked with children's well-being.

"Times have changed," said Robert Loftus, 34, of Yonkers, N.Y. He quit a six-figure sales job a year ago to care for his two young children while his wife works full time. "We're trying to rethink our priorities and family seems to be the No. 1 priority whereas in the past maybe people were more focused on career."

The results build on volumes of research showing changes in the American family since the baby boom years and before, when women were mostly stay-at-home moms and

dads were the major breadwinners. As those roles shifted, so did the view that moms are the only nurturers.

University of Chicago sociologist Jennifer Bellamy, who also studies fathering, said some old stereotypes persist, "that dads are sort of the copilots in their families," absent or less involved than moms.

But she said the survey confirms that fathers "are quite involved in a variety of different and important ways."

The study involved nearly 4,000 fathers aged 15 to 44 who were interviewed in person between 2006 and 2010. One caveat: They self-reported their involvement, without input from their partners or others. Most men were married or living with a partner.

Key findings among fathers living with children younger than 5:

■ 9 in 10 bathed, diapered, helped them use the toilet or get dressed at least several times weekly.

■ Even higher numbers played with them and ate meals with them that often.

■ Almost 2 out of 3 read to them at least several times weekly.

Among dads living with kids aged 5-18:

■ More than 9 out of 10 ate meals with them at least several times weekly and talked with them about what happened during the kids' day that often.

■ Almost 2 out of 3 helped with homework several times weekly.

■ About half took their kids to or from activities that often.

Overall, almost 90 percent of dads said they thought they were doing at least a good job of fathering.

McQueen, Cuaron, Greengrass first-time DGA noms

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steve McQueen gained his first directors guild nomination on Tuesday for his grim historic saga "12 Years a Slave," securing the British director's place as a top contender for an Academy Award.

Other first-time nominees were Alfonso Cuaron for his lost-in-space odyssey "Gravity," and Paul Greengrass for his Somali pirate thriller "Captain Phillips."

Past nominee David O. Russell received a bid for his con-artist tale "American Hustle." He was nominated in 2010 for his boxing drama "The Fighter."

Martin Scorsese earned his 11th nomination for his high-finance extravaganza, "The Wolf of Wall Street." Scorsese won a Directors Guild of America award in 2006 for the crime tale "The Departed" and again in 2010 for his work on HBO's "Boardwalk Empire."

Scorsese was honored with the DGA lifetime achievement award in 2003.

If McQueen wins this year for "12 Years a Slave," he would become the first black director to earn the guild's feature film accolade.

"To be included in such an amazing group of filmmakers and also to be honored by my peers makes me feel very humble and proud," he said in a statement.



This image released by Fox Searchlight shows director Steve McQueen, left, and actor Chiwetel Ejiofor during the filming of "12 Years A Slave."

John Singleton was the first black director to be nominated for the award for "Boyz n the Hood" in 1991, and Lee Daniels was nominated in 2009 for "Precious."

In 2013, the guild elected TV director Paris Barclay as its first African-American, openly gay president.

Last month, McQueen was named best director by the New York Film

Critics Circle for "12 Years a Slave." The film has been nominated for four Screen Actors Guild awards and seven Golden Globes.

"Gravity," "Captain Phillips" and "American Hustle" also received Globe and SAG bids. "The Wolf of Wall Street" made the Globe list.

The winner of the DGA award usually goes on to win the directing

statuette at the Oscars. Nominations for those awards will be announced on Jan. 16.

In the 65-year history of the DGA awards, the winner has failed to also take home the best director Oscar only seven times. Ben Affleck won the guild award last year for his work on "Argo" but was denied a best director nomination at the Oscars.

Ralph Lauren's niece held on 'air rage' charges

DUBLIN (AP)—The niece of fashion designer Ralph Lauren was arraigned Tuesday on charges of being dangerously drunk, threatening and verbally abusive on a New York-bound plane, forcing it to land in Ireland.

Jewelry designer Jenny Lauren was arrested Monday after a Delta flight from Barcelona, Spain, made an unscheduled two-hour stop at Shannon, the major airport in western Ireland, to remove her from the plane.

Lauren, 41, swore an oath on a Bible, then confirmed her name, American nationality and passport details. She offered no plea to three charges: making threats and abusive comments, exhibiting drunkenness severe enough to pose a danger to herself and others, and behaving in



Jenny Lauren, centre, Niece of fashion designer Ralph Lauren, arrives at Killaloe District Court, in Killaloe, Ireland, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014.

an obnoxious and offensive fashion.

The judge, Patrick Durcan, freed her on bail of 2,500 euros (\$3,400). She was ordered to stay at a hotel in the town of Shannon, report to its police station, and surrender her passport.

Lauren's New York-based team of lawyers said she intended to plead guilty to all three counts Wednesday at a courthouse in the nearby town of Ennis.

The Irish law governing "air rage" cases gives wide latitude to the judge to impose sentences ranging from probation to, in cases of hijacking, life in prison. But court officials said the typical handling of cases like Lauren's involve imposition of a cash fine and a suspended sentence.

Lauren covered her face from pho-

tographers and was driven away in a sports utility vehicle with dark-tinted windows. Tuesday's makeshift court session was held in a pub in the riverside village of Ballina, County Tipperary, some 30 kilometers (20 miles) east of the airport.

While western Ireland has several official court buildings, junior judges often travel roving circuits and hold weekly hearings in different public houses in outlying villages, to make it easier for residents of rural areas to attend.

Police officer Yvette Walsh testified that Lauren told officers as they were explaining the reasons for her arrest: "Can you say that in English, please?" English is the universally spoken language in Ireland.

CHART TOPPERS

Spotify's Top 10 most streamed tracks from Monday, Dec. 30, to Sunday Jan. 5:

UNITED STATES

1. **Pitbull**, "Timber" (RCA Records)
2. **OneRepublic**, "Counting Stars" (Interscope Records)
3. **Lorde**, "Royals" (Republic Records)
4. **Eminem**, "The Monster ft. Rihanna" (Aftermath Records)
5. **A Great Big World**, "Say Something" (Epic Records)
6. **Katy Perry**, "Dark Horse" (Capitol Records)
7. **Avicii**, "Wake Me Up" (Avicii Music AB)
8. **Passenger**, "Let Her Go" (Black Crow Records/Network)
9. **Drake**, "Hold On, We're Going Home" (Cash Money Records)
10. **Lorde**, "Team" (Republic Records)

UNITED KINGDOM

1. **Pharrell Williams**, "Happy" (Back Lot Music)
2. **Avicii**, "Hey Brother" (Avicii Music AB)
3. **Pitbull**, "Timber" (RCA Records)
4. **Eminem**, "The Monster ft. Rihanna" (Aftermath Records)
5. **Jason Derulo**, "Trumpets" (Warner Bros. Records)
6. **OneRepublic**, "Counting Stars" (Interscope Records)
7. **Lorde**, "Royals" (Universal Music NZ)
8. **Avicii**, "Wake Me Up - Radio Edit" (Avicii Music AB)
9. **Bastille**, "Of The Night" (Virgin Records)
10. **One Direction**, "Story of My Life" (Simco/Sony Music Entertainment UK)

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Jan 6, 2014:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. **"Heads Up!"**, Warner Bros.
2. **"Minecraft - Pocket Edition"**, Mojang
3. **"Cut the Rope 2"**, ZeptoLab UK Limited
4. **"Sky Guide: View Stars Night or Day"**, Fifth Star Labs LLC
5. **"Afterlight"**, Simon Filip
6. **"Survival Games - Mine Mini Game With Minecraft Skin Exporter (PC Edition) & Multiplayer"**, JoyDo Entertainment
7. **"Ski Safari: Adventure Time"**, Cartoon Network
8. **"Wipeout"**, Activision Publishing, Inc.
9. **"Plague Inc."**, Ndemic Creations
10. **"THE GAME OF LIFE Classic Edition"**, Electronic Arts

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. **"Flipagram"**, Cheerful, Inc.
2. **"Rayman Jungle Run"**, Ubisoft
3. **"Mr. Crab"**, Illusion Labs
4. **"Scanner Pro by Readdle"**, Readdle
5. **"Jet Car Stunts 2"**, True Axis
6. **"Facebook Messenger"**, Facebook, Inc.
7. **"QuizUp: The Biggest Trivia Game In The World!"**, Plain Vanilla Corp
8. **"Candy Crush Saga"**, King.com Limited
9. **"Snapchat"**, Snapchat, Inc.
10. **"YouTube"**, Google, Inc.

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. **"Minecraft - Pocket Edition"**, Mojang
2. **"Cut the Rope 2"**, ZeptoLab UK Limited
3. **"Sky Guide: View Stars Night or Day"**, Fifth Star Labs LLC
4. **"Heads Up!"**, Warner Bros.
5. **"Survival Games - Mine Mini Game With Minecraft Skin Exporter (PC Edition) & Multiplayer"**, JoyDo Entertainment
6. **"The Room Two"**, Fireproof Games
7. **"Ski Safari: Adventure Time"**, Cartoon Network
8. **"THE GAME OF LIFE for iPad"**, Electronic Arts
9. **"The Room"**, Fireproof Games
10. **"Cops N Robbers (Jail Break) - Mine Mini Game With Minecraft Skin Exporter (PC Edition) & Multiplayer"**, JoyDo Entertainment

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. **"Rayman Jungle Run"**, Ubisoft
2. **"Scanner Pro by Readdle"**, Readdle
3. **"Flipagram"**, Cheerful, Inc.
4. **"Mr. Crab"**, Illusion Labs
5. **"Netflix"**, Netflix, Inc.
6. **"Yahoo Weather"**, Yahoo
7. **"Angry Birds Go!"**, Rovio Entertainment Ltd
8. **"YouTube"**, Google, Inc.
9. **"Candy Crush Saga"**, King.com Limited
10. **"Calculator for iPad Free"**, International Travel Weather Calculator



AP
This Dec. 9, 2013 photo shows actress Sasha Pieterse from the ABC Family television series "Pretty Little Liars," in New York.

'Pretty Little Liars' Alison is alive! Now what?

NEW YORK (AP)— "Pretty Little Liars" has hooked viewers with the twists and turns of four friends who are repeatedly tormented and tricked in their fictional town after their queen bee best friend Alison DiLaurentis is murdered.

That's why many fans were shocked in the show's annual Halloween episode when it was revealed (spoiler alert!) that Alison was alive and had been in hiding this whole time.

The series resumes its fourth season Tuesday at 8 p.m. EST, and actress Sasha Pieterse (Peter-Suh), who plays Alison, says even though "the girls find a little bit of satisfaction" in new episodes, all isn't roses in Rosewood, Penn.

"There's so much that they've been through and to

know that Alison was alive and didn't do anything when certain things happen to them I think that they're going have to deal with that because that's painful, too. I think they're happy that she's alive and probably pissed off," laughed Pieterse in a recent interview.

Now that we know Alison is alive, Pieterse will play a more prominent role in episodes to come.

Pieterse says the big questions now are "where has she been hiding and who has she been hiding from."

Dead or alive, the 17-year-old South Africa-born actress is thrilled to be a part of such a popular series.

"TV is so fickle. We get 24 episodes a season. That doesn't happen as often any-

more. It's a great blessing to be working nine months out of the year."

She recalls first auditioning to play the character of Hanna (the role went to Ashley Benson) and filming the pilot when she was just 12 years old.

Besides being a hit in the U.S., the show is also very popular internationally with fans in Brazil, France, the UK and the Philippines.

"It's funny to hear it in other languages," mused Pieterse.

For fans that can't wait to see how the series unfolds, Pieterse advises a great way to get answers is by re-watching old episodes.

"If you go back and watch again you'll pick up little pieces," she teased. "There are things to find."

NY Film Critics apologize for heckling of McQueen

NEW YORK (AP)—Hollywood's award season, never known for civility, is roiling from a heckling incident between "12 Years a Slave" director Steve McQueen and film critic Armond White.

At the New York Film Critics Circle Awards on Monday night, White allegedly jeered McQueen as "an embarrassing doorman and garbage man" while he was presented the best director award by Harry Belafonte. McQueen dismissed the outburst, apparently not bothered by it.

In an email Tuesday to "12 Years a Slave" distributor Fox Searchlight, NYFCC chairman Joshua Rothkopf apologized to Fox Searchlight and McQueen for "the crass bit of heckling." In the letter, first posted online by Deadline Hollywood, Rothkopf said he was "mortified" that it came from one of the group's own members and pledged "disciplinary action."

White, an editor for CityArts, is known for his contrarian film reviews. He panned "12 Years a Slave" as "torture porn."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Transformers' director walks off stage at CES

LAS VEGAS (AP)— "Transformers" director Michael Bay says he's embarrassed that he walked off the stage during a presentation of Samsung's new curved ultra-high-definition television. Video of the cringe-worthy incident at the International CES gadget show in Las Vegas circulated on social media sites late Monday and early Tuesday. In a statement posted online and confirmed by Bay's production company, Bay says: "I guess live shows aren't my thing." The video shows Bay start to speak, then stop when the presenter speaks. Bay resumes speaking, then stops again, saying the teleprompter

Macklemore named The Source's man of the year

NEW YORK (AP)—Macklemore is The Source's man of the year.

The U.S. rapper was among the most-played artists of 2013, partnering with producer Ryan Lewis on hits such as "Thrift Shop," "Can't Hold Us" and "Same Love" and earning seven Grammy nominations.

Macklemore discusses his hip-hop credentials, the Grammys, the role of race in his pop success and worrying over Kanye's opinion in an interview with the magazine out Tuesday.

Even though he's also nominated for best rap album at the Grammy Awards, Macklemore says Kendrick Lamar should win: "I think it should go to Kendrick. He's family."

Macklemore and Lewis also



AP
In this Nov. 20, 2012 file photo, American musician Ben Haggerty, better known by his stage name Macklemore poses for a portrait at Irving Plaza in New York.

are up for top honors for album and song of the year. Previous man of the year winners include Rick Ross and 2 Chainz.

Lily Tomlin ties knot with partner of 42 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After more than four decades together, Lily Tomlin's longtime partner and collaborator is now her wife.

Tomlin's publicist Jennifer Allen told People Magazine and other media outlets Tuesday that the 74-year-old actress and comedian married 78-year-old

Jane Wagner in a private New Year's Eve ceremony in Los Angeles.

Tomlin gained fame through the 1960s sketch show "Laugh-In," went on to star in movies like "9 to 5" and "All of Me" and more recently was a regular on the TV shows "Murphy Brown" and "The West Wing."

Wagner was writer of Tomlin's Tony-winning one-woman show "The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe," and wrote the screenplay for her movie "The Incredible Shrinking Woman."

Chicago Tribune columnist Liz Smith, a friend of both women, first reported the marriage.

Eager grandmas must defer to new family's wishes

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: In response to the letter from "Family First in Florida" (Nov. 3), it's no wonder her son and daughter-in-law want some peace and quiet when their new baby arrives. Grandma-to-be appears controlling, entitled and someone who will be more of an endurance test than a helping presence. They are right to set kind, yet firm, boundaries with her.

I wanted privacy during and after childbirth, and I'm grateful my mom and MIL respected our wishes. I needed time to establish a nursing routine, heal and get to know my baby before I was ready to host overnight guests.

My kids' grandmas both have strong, loving relationships with their grandkids, so please remind "Family First" she's not missing out on anything. She'll still get to be a doting granny, but for now she should back off and remember the arrival of the child is not about HER

EXPERIENCED MOM IN OMAHA

DEAR MOM: I'm pleased everything worked out well for you. That woman's letter hit a nerve with my readers. A sampling of their comments:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I had the same vision of being there when my grandkids were born. However, my kids have not involved me the way I imagined.

"Family First's" son is putting HIS family first, as he should. He and his wife have chosen what they feel will make the smoothest, least-stressful launch for their new family, and he is protecting that plan. If she doesn't respect her son's right to make that decision, she risks jeopardizing her future relationship with him, his wife AND the grandkids.

The essence of a mother's love is sacrifice. It's time to put aside her dreams and help her son fulfill his.

SUZIE IN OLYMPIA, WASH.

DEAR ABBY: The new parents are greatly misinformed about the importance of having grandparents around just before and immediately after the birth of a new baby. It helps to have a family member in the waiting room to update other family and well-wishers so Dad can devote full attention to the new mom and baby.

My mother was a godsend, taking care of everything while we bonded with our child. She did the cooking, the chores, and gave us needed breaks during the day so we were able to tolerate night feedings. When our second child arrived, she helped with our older one.

Childbirth is difficult. I don't think this new mom realizes she won't be able to do it all.

SHANA IN LOUISIANA

DEAR ABBY: Has "Family First" considered that her daughter-in-law's mother may be coming? Unfair as it may seem, in cultures around the world, the role of the paternal grandmother is far different than that of the maternal grandmother.

KNOWS FOR SURE IN KENYA

DEAR ABBY: My son and DIL told everyone, including the other grandparents, who live near them, they wanted NO visitors for at least six weeks. That sad grandma needs to brush up on her Skype and Facetime skills so she can see them frequently on her computer and phone. We do this with our kids.

In the first year, the baby learned our voices and saw our faces often. When we met again, it was like we'd always been there.

COMPUTER GRANNY

DEAR ABBY: While she isn't invited to be there for the birth of her first grandchild, I'm sure her son and DIL will be begging her to come for the next one. After a week of no sleep, they are going to wish they had told her yes this time!

GRANNY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: When I declined my mother-in-law's offer to help out when my son was born, she paid to have a catering service deliver daily three-course dinners for two weeks so I wouldn't have to cook. It was the best gift I ever received, and I love her for it!

LISA IN NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@fiestasaipan.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 31, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Hayward's 37 lift Jazz past Thunder, 112-101



SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Facing the league's top scorer, Gordon Hayward did his best Kevin Durant impersonation.

"You always bring it against the best. He's an unbelievable player," Hayward said.

Hayward scored a career-high 37 points, including Utah's final 17 points, to overcome Kevin Durant's 48 points and lead the Jazz to a 112-101 win over Oklahoma City on Tuesday night.

"Once you hit a couple of tough ones then the basket starts looking pretty big. You feel like you can almost throw up anything and it will go in," Hayward said.

After the Thunder sliced a 24-point Jazz lead to 99-94, Hayward made five straight jumpers—two of them 3-pointers—as he personally outscored the Thunder 17-7 to clinch Utah's fourth straight home win.

"How about Gordon! He was huge. I mean we needed every last basket he made for us," Utah coach Tyrone Corbin said.

The Utah forward made 13 of 16 field goals and added 11 rebounds and seven assists to offset Durant, who matched this season's NBA high scoring total that he set against the Timberwolves on Saturday.

"I was in the zone a little bit tonight. It's finally good to be there. It's been a rough season shooting for me," said Hayward, who has been taking hundreds of shots late into the night at the practice facility during this home stand.

Hayward said he noticed on film that he'd been leaning back and fading away as he shot jumpers. He also felt he looked out of rhythm in his shooting motion. His accuracy had dropped below 40 percent before three straight games of making at least half his attempts.

"He got whatever he wanted. He was moving, cutting and getting everyone involved, and then it opened up for him," Durant said.

Without Russell Westbrook and Serge Ibaka, Durant took the ball nearly every possession in the fourth quarter. He missed all four final-period field-goal attempts but made 11 of 13 from the line in the final 12 minutes. Westbrook is out with a knee injury and Ibaka didn't dress because of flu-like symptoms.

Derrick Favors had 15 and Marvin Williams scored 12 to help snap the Thunder's eight-game road winning streak, two off the franchise record of 10 straight. Richard Jefferson, Enes Kanter and Trey Burke all had 10 points.

The Jazz easily drove the lane for draw-and-kicks, which led to a bevy of open jump shots. The Thunder looked visibly winded, playing at 4,250 feet above sea level at the tail end of a three-

game-in-four-night stretch.

Favors capped an 11-2 run with a jumper to give the Jazz their largest lead at 84-60. The margin is Utah's second largest of the season, just behind a 28-point lead the Jazz had in Sacramento in a 122-101 win on Dec. 11.

But Durant kept attacking and the Jazz started missing after shooting well above 60 percent for much of the game. Utah finished at 58.8 percent and the team with the worst record in the Western Conference beat the top club in the conference.

The atmosphere turned testy in the fourth quarter when the Thunder fought back. Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks got a technical for crossing midcourt to protest a call with 10:16 to play. Moments later, official Zach Zarba prohibited a Jazz fan from throwing a ball in the air behind the basket while Durant shot free throws. Then Kanter was whistled for another technical with 9:19 remaining.

The Thunder used a 7-0 surge—all on free throws—to draw within 92-82.

Cavaliers 111, 76ers 93

In Cleveland, C.J. Miles set a team record with 10 3-pointers and scored a season-high 34 points, leading the Cavaliers to the victory.

Miles made eight 3s in the first half, when the Cavs opened a 26-point lead that allowed them to coast to a rare easy win. He notched his ninth with 9:53 left and drained No. 10 with 9:17 remaining. He went 10 of 14 from outside the arc.

Cleveland's second victory in 10 games came hours after the club acquired forward Luol Deng from Chicago in a trade for center Andrew Bynum and future draft picks. Deng wasn't in uniform, but Cavs All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving returned after missing three games with a bruised left knee and finished with 16 points.

Sixers rookie Michael Carter-Williams scored a season-high 33.

Kings 123, Trail Blazers 119

In Sacramento, California, DeMarcus Cousins had 35 points and 13 rebounds, Rudy Gay scored 32 points and the Kings held off a furious rally to beat the Trail Blazers.

Cousins and Gay provided the spark for a 32-12 run at the end of the third and beginning of the fourth quarters that put Sacramento ahead by 19 points. Gay fouled out with 4:12 remaining, and the Blazers nearly rallied back.

Damian Lillard scored 26 of his 41 points in the final period to pull Portland within two in the final minute. But the Kings made just enough free throws to hold off the Blazers, who have lost four of their last six games.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 24 points and eight rebounds,



Utah Jazz guard Gordon Hayward (20) is defended by Oklahoma City Thunder guard Jeremy Lamb (11) during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Salt Lake City, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014. The Jazz won 112-101.

and Nicolas Batum finished with 11 points, 11 rebounds and five assists while playing with a fractured left middle finger for Portland.

Warriors 101, Bucks 80

In Milwaukee, David Lee had 22 points and 18 rebounds to lead Golden State to its 10th straight win.

Lee was 10 of 12 from the field for the Warriors, who have their longest winning streak since their NBA-title season in 1975. Stephen Curry contributed 15 points for the Warriors despite connecting on just 5 of 18 shots. Klay Thompson also scored 15 points.

The Warriors, playing their sixth game of a seven-city trip, led by just two at the half against the Bucks, who have the NBA's worst record.

Golden State broke open the game with a 23-7 run to start the third quarter, highlighted by a step-back 3-pointer from the corner by Curry.

Ersan Ilyasova had 20 points and Brandon Knight 18 for the Bucks.

Spurs 110, Grizzlies 108, OT

In Memphis, Tennessee, Manu Ginobili scored on a driving layup with 1.8 seconds left in overtime, lifting San Antonio to the road win.

Mike Conley had an opportunity to win the game for Memphis, but his 25-footer fell short.

Tim Duncan led the Spurs with 24 points, while Marco Belinelli added 19 and Kawhi Leonard had 17.

Conley had 30 points for the Grizzlies.

Memphis trailed by 16 with five minutes left in regulation, and then used a 23-7 run to force overtime. Conley hit a runner at the end of regulation after Ginobili had scored on a layup.

San Antonio played without center Tiago Splitter, who sprained his right shoulder in Saturday's win over the Clippers and is out for three to five weeks.

Heat 107, Pelicans 88

In Miami, LeBron James scored 32 points and Dwyane Wade had 22 to power Miami to the win.

It was the 10th 30-point game of the season for James. The Heat are 9-1 when he scores that many.

Chris Andersen was 7 for 7 from the field and scored 15 points, and Chris Bosh added 12 points and nine rebounds for the Heat, who trailed by 11 points early in the third quarter.

Miami then outscored New Orleans 59-26 over the next 20 minutes, the run ending when James, Wade and Bosh departed for the night with about 3 minutes left.

Anthony Davis led the Pelicans with 22 points and 12 rebounds, most of his numbers coming in the first half. Eric Gordon scored 15 and Tyreke Evans added 13 for New Orleans.

Pacers 86, Raptors 79

In Indianapolis, Roy Hibbert scored 22 points and Danny Granger matched his season high with 13, helping Indiana to its third consecutive win.

The NBA-leading Pacers held the Raptors to a season low in points.

Toronto has lost two straight on the road—at Miami and Indiana—after winning four straight. The Raptors were led by DeMar DeRozan with 28 points and Patrick Patterson with 20 against a Pacers team that looked more like itself after losing in Toronto last week.

Indiana had a 40-26 scoring advantage in the paint and limited the Raptors to 37 percent

shooting from the field. And instead of struggling in the second half, the Pacers pulled away.

They closed the first half on an 8-3 spurt to take a 44-36 lead they extended to 17 in the third.

Nuggets 129, Celtics 98

In Denver, Randy Foye scored a season-high 23 points, connecting on seven 3-pointers, and Denver routed Boston for its third straight win after an eight-game losing streak.

Kenneth Faried had 21 points and 13 rebounds and Ty Lawson added 19 points and 13 assists for the Nuggets, who sent the Celtics to their fifth loss in a row and reversed a 106-98 loss at Boston on Dec. 6. The Nuggets returned to .500 (17-17) with the victory.

Jerryd Bayless, acquired earlier in the day by Boston as part of a three-team trade that also involved Memphis and Oklahoma City, had six points in 25 minutes in his Celtics debut.

Jeff Green led Boston with 17 points. Brandon Bass had 15.

Mavericks 110, Lakers 97

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 27 points and Dallas avoided its longest home losing streak in 14 years.

The Mavericks had lost four straight at home, the last victory in their arena coming against Memphis the week before Christmas.

Los Angeles lost for the eighth time in nine games.

Nowitzki had three baskets on passes from Gal Mekel in a 59-second span early in the second quarter to put Dallas up 43-39. Nowitzki started the span with a running layup before consecutive 11-foot jumpers that sandwiched a 3-pointer by Jodie Meeks.

Meeks led the Lakers with 24 points.

Knicks 89, Pistons 85

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 13 of his 34 points in the third quarter, and then made the clinching free throws with 2.9 seconds left as the Knicks handed the Pistons a season-high fifth straight loss.

Raymond Felton finished with 12 points and six assists in his return from injury for the Knicks, who came home from a 2-1 Texas swing and held on after blowing most of the 17-point lead they built while outscoring the Pistons 32-17 in the third quarter.

Andrea Bargnani had 13 points and 11 rebounds, helping the Knicks overcome the absence of an ill Tyson Chandler to beat the Pistons at Madison Square Garden for the eighth straight time.

Josh Smith had 21 points and 12 rebounds for Detroit, while Andre Drummond finished with 12 points and 17 boards.

Bulls 92, Suns 87

In Chicago, Taj Gibson had 19 points and 10 rebounds as the Bulls won their first game after parting with Luol Deng in a trade.

Joakim Noah added 14 points and 16 rebounds, helping the Bulls to their sixth victory in eight games. D.J. Augustin and Jimmy Butler each scored 13. Tony Snell added 12 points, including back-to-back 3-pointers during an 8-0 run early in the fourth quarter that extended the lead to 13.

Chicago dealt Deng to Cleveland late Monday night after the two-time All-Star turned down a proposed contract extension, a move that hurts in the short term but gives the Bulls flexibility to add to their roster down the road.

Goran Dragic scored 21 for Phoenix, but the Suns simply couldn't get into gear after winning 11 of their previous 14.

Wizards 97, Bobcats 83

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Bradley Beal scored 21 points to lead five Washington players in double figures for the victory.

Marcin Gortat added 18 points and John Wall had 17 for the Wizards. Gortat added 12 rebounds while helping hold Charlotte center Al Jefferson to six points on 3-of-9 shooting.

Gerald Henderson led the Bobcats with a season-high 27 points. Kemba Walker added 19 and Ramon Sessions 10 as they fell to 15-21 with their sixth loss in seven games. The Bobcats dropped to 8-11 at home.

The Wizards used a 17-0 run in the third quarter—when the Bobcats went scoreless for more than six minutes—to take control of what was a close game. Wall helped ignite the decisive run when he grabbed a loose ball as the 24-second shot clock wound down and hit a 3-point shot from 35 feet.

Luck gets 2nd chance to test himself against Brady



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—

Growing up, Andrew Luck kept trying to emulate the quarterbacks he watched on Sunday afternoons, guys like Peyton Manning and Phillip Rivers.

And Tom Brady.

Now, the 24-year-old franchise quarterback is all grown up and about to face his next big test—trying to beat Brady on his home turf with a trip to the AFC championship game on the line.

“I think there are so many quarterbacks that do so many great things that as a quarterback you’d like to watch all of them and say, ‘They do this so well,’ and see if you can do that,” Luck said Tuesday.

His next chance comes Saturday night when the Colts (12-5) travel to New England (12-4).

Luck has already done his part to live up to the seemingly impossible standards that came with replacing Manning



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck (12) dives for a touchdown after recovering a fumble by the Colts' Eric Berry during the second half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Kansas City Chiefs Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, in Indianapolis.

in Indy. The two-time Heisman Trophy runner up spent two college seasons being called

everything from the most polished college quarterback since Manning to the most promising

quarterback prospect at Stanford since John Elway.

Luck just focused on playing

his game and the results have been impressive.

He has thrown for more yards (8,196) in his first two seasons than any quarterback in NFL history. His 22 regular-season wins rank No. 2 to Russell Wilson among all second-year quarterbacks since 1970, and with nine career TDs rushing, he already ranks fourth on the franchise's career list behind only Manning (17), Bert Jones (14) and John Unitas (13)—all previous MVPs.

Even when it comes to measuring up to Manning, Luck has done remarkably well.

In October, he beat Manning in their first head-to-head meeting. And after rallying Indianapolis (12-5) to the second-greatest comeback in playoff history last weekend, Luck's first postseason win came four seasons sooner than Manning's. A win over the Patriots (12-4) would give Luck the same total of playoff wins over Brady than Manning—one. But that's not what motivates Luck.

“He studies so much tape and prepares himself so well

that he's able to identify and see things, even if it was a year ago,” coach Chuck Pagano said. “He's got that, probably what Tom has and what Peyton has and all the great ones have, is the ability to identify and see things and put things behind him and move on.”

That ability to move on is perhaps the reason Luck is still playing in January.

Last week, after throwing interceptions on consecutive passes, Luck managed to shake off the bad throws.

Down 38-10 early in the third quarter, he steadily moved the Colts back into contention and when he hooked up with T.Y. Hilton on a 64-yard TD pass with 4:21 to go, Indy suddenly had a 45-44 lead. The defense held off Kansas City's last-gasp drive, giving Luck the chance to savor his historic comeback by taking a knee three straight times.

Things are bound to be much tougher this time around as the Colts and Patriots renew what has been one of the NFL's fiercest rivalries over the last decade.

Brady won his first six starts against the Colts, a span that included two playoff games. Manning answered by winning five of the next six, including the 2006 AFC championship game when he rallied Indy from an 18-point deficit. Brady and the Patriots have won the last three, including last year's forgettable 59-24 rout in frosty New England when Luck was picked off three times and lost a fumble. It was so bad Pagano said he wanted to “burn” the tape.

To Luck, Saturday's game is all about advancing in the playoffs against a team and quarterback that have played their best football when it matters most.

“He has definitely set the standard for success,” Luck said of Brady. “The way he handles himself, watching from afar, the competitive nature and basically all the right things he does. Yeah, I guess he is a barometer and he is the standard.”

Greg Maddux won't be unanimous Hall selection



NEW YORK (AP)—

Greg Maddux could break a 22-year-old record Wednesday, though he won't become the first unanimous selection in the history of the baseball writers' Hall of Fame ballot.

When Tom Seaver received 425 of 430 votes in 1992, his 98.84 percentage topped the mark set by Ty Cobb in 1936. A dominant pitcher when offense ruled in the Steroids Era, Maddux has a chance to enter Cooperstown with a little extra bit of fame.

“I just have just never come across any human being, whether they're a voter or just a fan, that doesn't think Greg Maddux is a Hall of Famer and one of the greatest pitchers who ever pitched,” The Boston Globe's Nick Cafardo said Tuesday. “I can't imagine someone not voting for him. So I would guess that he's going to break Seaver's record.”

Maddux is among three high-profile players on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot for the first time, joined by former Atlanta Braves teammate Tom Glavine and Chicago White Sox slugger Frank Thomas.

Holdovers include Craig Biggio, who topped voting at 68 percent last year, 39 votes short of the 75 percent needed for election. It was only the second time in four decades the BBWAA failed to elect anyone.

Ken Gurnick of MLB.com, a former reporter for the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, said Tuesday the only player he voted for was Jack Morris, on the writers' ballot for the 15th and

final time after falling 42 votes shy last year.

“To me, I didn't exclude Maddux. I excluded everybody from that era, everybody from the Steroid Era,” Gurnick said. “It wasn't about Greg Maddux, it was about the entire era. I just don't know who did and who didn't.”

Gurnick said Morris also was the only player he voted for in 2013 and added he intends to abstain in future elections.

“Some people quibble over when the era starts, but the bulk of his career was in my opinion well before all of the widespread use of performance-enhancing drugs,” Gurnick said.

Given that 569 ballots were submitted in 2013, Maddux likely could be omitted from six this year and still break Seaver's record.

Back in 1992, Seaver was left off by Paul Hagen of the *Philadelphia Daily News*, Bob Hertz of the *Pittsburgh Press* and freelance writer Bob Hunter. They all submitted blank ballots to protest the decision by the Hall of Fame board of directors to bar Pete Rose from the vote because of his lifetime ban from baseball following a gambling probe.

Retired writers Deane McGowen and Bud Tucker also did not vote for Seaver.

“If it had cost Seaver anything, yeah, I probably would regret it at some level, but it didn't really cost him anything,” Hagen, now with MLB.com, said Tuesday. “He still got the highest vote (percentage) total ever, and he wouldn't have been unanimous anyway.”

The Steroids Era has impacted the vote totals of players with stellar statistics. In initial

appearances last year, Mike Piazza was at 57.8 percent, Roger Clemens at 37.6, Barry Bonds at 36.2 and Sammy Sosa at 12.5. Mark McGwire received 16.9 on his seventh try.

The Baseball Think Factory website compiled votes by writers who made their opinions public, and with 161 ballots had Maddux at 99 percent, followed by Glavine (96), Thomas (91) and Biggio (79). The website's count had Piazza (68), Jeff Bagwell (61) and Morris (60) falling short along with Tim Lincecum (55), Bonds (42), Clemens (41), Curt Schilling (37) and Mike Mussina (29).

McGwire (14) and Sosa (8) had little support.

Eighth on the wins list with a 355-227 record and a 3.16 ERA over 23 seasons, Maddux won four consecutive Cy Young Awards from 1992-95 and a record 18 Gold Gloves with the Chicago Cubs, Atlanta, the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego. An eight-time All-Star, he won at least 13 games in 20 straight seasons.

Among pitchers with 3,000 innings whose careers began in 1921 or later—after the Dead Ball Era—Maddux's 1.80 walks per nine innings is second only to Robin Roberts' 1.73, according to STATS.

Glavine, a 10-time All-Star and a two-time Cy Young winner, was 305-203 over 22 seasons. At the induction ceremony in Cooperstown on July 27, Maddux and Glavine figure to join their former manager Bobby Cox, elected last month by the expansion-era committee along with Joe Torre and Tony La Russa.

A two-time AL MVP, Thomas hit .301 with 521 homers and

1,704 RBIs in 19 seasons with the White Sox, Toronto and Oakland.

Biggio was a seven-time All-Star who spent his entire 20-year career in the majors with Houston. He had 3,060 hits, 668 doubles and 414 steals and set a big league record by getting hit with pitches 285 times.

Approximately 600 writers who have been members of the BBWAA for 10 consecutive years at any point considered the 36-player ballot.

Next year's ballot could be even more crowded when Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez, John Smoltz, Carlos Delgado and Gary Sheffield become eligible, five years after their retirements. The BBWAA last month formed a committee to study whether the organization should ask the Hall to change the limit of 10 players per ballot.

Fisher kicked Winston out of practice before BCS



NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—

Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher was thrilled with the way Jameis Winston ran the two-minute drill to win the BCS national championship.

That wasn't the case leading up to the big game.

Fisher says he kicked the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback out of the final practice before the Seminoles left Florida to travel to California.

Fisher says he took issue with how Winston was performing during a two-minute

drill and sent the quarterback to the locker room.

“The thing about two-minute that you've got to be real careful of, it's not about you,” Fisher said Tuesday. “You can get so involved that you're going to win the game—the key is to use all the weapons around you. He did that in that game.”

“The mindset that you have to have, which he had all year, I just saw it drifting,” he said.

On Monday night, Winston led the top-ranked Seminoles on an 80-yard drive inside the Rose Bowl. He threw a 2-yard touchdown pass with 13 seconds left to beat No. 2 Auburn 34-31 and finish off a perfect season for Florida State.

Fisher said the two came

away from that practice in Florida with a better understanding of each other.

Fisher, however, has the final say.

“It's good to be the king,” Fisher said. “He'll be the king one day. When he's in pro ball he might have thrown the coach out. But the thing about it, though, he waited for me to get off the field and we had a long discussion and we had it out. He's an unbelievable guy to be able to process and transition and go right back.”

“It was just a point I thought I needed to make to him at the present time as a young guy, and like I say, sometimes you have to be their coach. You can't be their friend,” he said.

US skiing star Lindsey Vonn out of Sochi Olympics

By HOWARD FENDRICH and PAT GRAHAM
AP SPORTS WRITERS

Less than two weeks after reconstructive right knee surgery in February 2013, Lindsey Vonn already was sounding a positive note, saying she was “really looking forward to Sochi” and defending her Olympic downhill gold medal.

Along the way to the next Winter Games, though, Vonn began facing more setbacks. As she’d move past one, another would surface. In the end, it was too much, even for Vonn, the most accomplished U.S. ski racer in history. Expected to be one of the biggest stars at the upcoming Games, Vonn announced Tuesday—exactly one month before the opening ceremony—she won’t be able to race in Russia.

In a Facebook posting, Vonn said she is “devastated” to miss the Olympics, “but the reality has sunk in that my knee is just too unstable to compete at this level.”

Her personal publicist, Lewis Kay, said in a statement the 29-year-old from Vail, Colo., will have knee surgery again “shortly.”

Like many in her risk-filled sport, Vonn has dealt with injuries often, particularly at major events. She withdrew midway through the 2011 world championships because of a concussion. She raced with a severely

bruised shin at the last Olympics. She skipped a race at the 2009 worlds after slicing her thumb open on a champagne bottle. She hurt her knee in training and missed a pair of races at the 2007 worlds. She took a scary fall during training at the 2006 Olympics, then left the hospital to compete.

“She’s come back. She’ll be back,” Vonn’s father, Alan Kildow, said in a telephone interview. “You’ll see a lot of Lindsey Vonn in the future.”

Vonn left the 2010 Vancouver Games with two medals: the first Olympic downhill gold for an American woman, and a bronze in the super-G. She is also a four-time overall World Cup champion, by far the most recognized name in Alpine skiing at the moment - and, as it happens, the girlfriend of Tiger Woods.

Add it all up, and she would have been the focus of plenty of media coverage in Sochi, certainly a main character in NBC’s coverage for a U.S. audience.

“Lindsey gives you great promotional value, and she’s an amazing athlete and an amazing story,” said Gary Zenkel, president of NBC Olympics. “But there are amazing athletes that are going to be in Sochi, many of which we know, some of which we haven’t identified yet.”

To those in the world of skiing, there’s no doubt about the sport’s most important athlete of late.

“Without Lindsey Vonn, the races are just not the same,”

Canadian women’s Alpine coach Hugues Ansermoz said last month. “She just attracts so much interest. When Lindsey Vonn is here, there are more people coming to watch the race, there is more interest on TV, more journalists are interested. And her relationship with Tiger Woods makes even more people interested.”

But Vonn has rarely been present on the elite skiing circuit the past 12 months. She tore two ligaments in her right knee and broke a bone in that leg during a high-speed crash at the world championships last February.

As Vonn neared a return, she re-tore her surgically repaired ACL in a crash during training in November. After finishing 40th, 11th and fifth in a trio of World Cup races at Lake Louise, Alberta, in early December, Vonn sprained her MCL during a downhill at Val d’Isere, France, two weeks later.

“I did everything I possibly could to somehow get strong enough to overcome having no ACL,” Vonn said Tuesday via Facebook.

“I’m having surgery soon so that I can be ready for the World Championships at home in Vail next February,” she wrote. “On a positive note, this means there will be an additional spot so that one of my teammates can go for gold.”

Mikaela Shiffrin, the reigning world champion in slalom,

and Julia Mancuso, a three-time Olympic medalist, will now draw extra attention as American women trying to reach the Alpine skiing podium in Sochi. Top skiers from other countries who will be favored for medals include Germany’s Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Switzerland’s Lara Gut, Slovenia’s Tina Maze and Liechtenstein’s Tina Weirather.

Shiffrin, the U.S. teenager labeled the “next Vonn” by some, wrote on Twitter that it’s “hard to swallow” that Vonn won’t be competing in Sochi. Another American racer, Stacey Cook, posted on Facebook: “Our team is not the same without you. You leave big shoes to fill.”

After skiing in two downhills and a super-G at Lake Louise last month, Vonn sounded optimistic, declaring she would be in Sochi, “fighting for my medal.”

But shortly thereafter in France—with Woods watching in the finish area—Vonn lost her balance. Her left ski lifted, forcing weight onto her right knee. She grimaced, then clutched that leg.

Kay said Tuesday an MRI “showed an MCL sprain, which coupled with the torn ACL, has made it impossible to stabilize her knee and be ready to safely ski again next month.”

Now Vonn will turn her attention to the 2015 world championships in Colorado. There’s also this: She needs three wins to

match the World Cup record of 62 race victories set by Annemarie Moser-Proell of Austria.

“I have every ounce of confidence that Lindsey will be in the starting gate next World Cup season, ready to compete,” said Bill Marolt, the CEO and president of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association. “She knows the hard work it takes to get to the top and still has significant goals to achieve in what has been an incredible career.”

U.S. racers captured eight Alpine medals four years ago, their highest total at any Olympics and twice as many as any other country at Vancouver.

That figure may be tough to reach with Vonn sidelined and Bode Miller, who won three medals in 2010, trying to return

to form at age 36 after left knee surgery. What’s more, Mancuso has been struggling this season. Off to a poor start in pre-Olympic races, Mancuso recently headed home for a short break.

“We have a strong team that is well prepared. ... Now is the time for those athletes to step up,” Marolt said.

Vonn, meanwhile, will go through another operation, another rehab, another road back.

“You need to look at the long run. The problem with the knee is there is not an insignificant risk that you’re going to do more long-term damage that can’t be repaired,” said Kildow, her father. “So have it repaired now. So you can compete in future years. So you can ski and enjoy yourself after you get done competing.”

QQ Rent A Car caging eyes opening this month

Organizers of the 2013 QQ Rent A Car Basketball League is hoping to open shop later this month at the Garapan Basketball Court.

League commissioner Boy Garcia said they are eyeing either the third or last Saturday of January as the opening day of the competition and the rest of the matches will be played every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

The QQ caging is an open league and so far seven teams have expressed an interest in joining the competition. Garcia said they are looking to have

VILLAVICENCIO

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Soll made the final cut when she logged 1,312 pinfalls. She registered 178 pinfalls in three games, 150-plus (153, 157, and 158) in three more, and 144, and 166 in the last two for an average of 164, behind by more than three points against Omechelang (167.13).

Soll then pulled off an upset versus the second-ranked Omechelang in the stepladder

finals, prevailing in the win-or-go home match, 164-144, to set up a finale face-off against Villavicencio. Villavicencio, who had a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals for topping the qualifier, finished off Soll early with a convincing 174-148 victory in Game 1.

Meanwhile, seven other female keglers joined Villavicencio, Soll, and Omechelang in the season-ending tournament. The list includes Tess Fabie (1,282 pinfalls), Cal (1,196),

Lala Taitano (1,192), Cora Muna (1,179), Myrna Santos (1,177), Gigi Zapanta (1,129), and Marie Candado (1,088).

Players gained entry to the qualifying tournament after they either won a monthly crown or participated in at least four competitions (women’s only) in 2013. Fourteen keglers originally made the qualifiers list for the Queen of the Lanes. In the King of the Lanes, players would only qualify if they joined at least six roll-offs last

year and 27 made the grade.

Leading the players competing in the King of the Lanes qualifier, which will be played this Sunday, is back-to-back champion Simon Manacop. He will be defending his crown against Edgar Abalos, Ben Aizon, Raymond Angeles, Alex Castro, Tito Corpuz, Benjie Cruz, Roger De Guzman, Ramir De Leon, Ariel and Raul Dumapit, Arnel Ibarreta, Jerry Kaneshi, Jae Yong Kim, Yong Woon Lee, Rusty

Musca, Percy Omechelang, Paul Pangelinan, Bernard Paraiso, Jorge Soledad, Robert Talavera, Lito Teodoro, Tony Yarobwemal, and the Zapanta siblings—Raphael, Raymond, and Ruselle.

Registration for the nine-game qualifying roll-off will start at 12:30pm, while matches will begin at 1pm, and followed shortly by the stepladder finals. Only the Top 3 finishers in the qualifier will advance to the stepladder finals.

in the main draw and will join forces with Victoria’s Ainsleigh Timms. The unranked pair was scheduled to battle fellow unseeded Graham Hawkins and Krishan Raju in a first round match yesterday afternoon.

Also set for yesterday afternoon was Ren and Patrick Findlay’s opening round doubles tiff against Talen Andrews and Lachlan Graetz in the main draw of the boys U12 age group.

LEE

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nament and is also the No. 1 seed in the 21-player field. The Australian is at the top half of the draw and plays Imogen Cameron in the second round today after getting a bye in the first round. Lee is still unseeded despite her title win in the tournament in New South Wales last Tuesday and squares off against Naia Guitton of Ta-

hiti in the second round match at the bottom half of the draw today. Guitton also swept her first round foe, Sarah Elise Burke, 6-1, 6-0, to arrange an all-Pacific Oceania ITF Touring Team duel in Round 2.

Lee will start her doubles bid, too today with Australia’s Hana Kim as her partner. The CNMI bet and Kim meet Japanese Mirano Osaki and Honoka Yoshimura in the first round of the doubles events. If Lee and Kim

win, the former will have an early collision against his finals rival in New South Wales as the unranked pair would have to challenge the top-seeded duo of Gilmour and Angelina Teakaraanga in the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, Michael Ren will also see action in the main draw of the boys U12 singles event of Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships after surviving yesterday’s qualifying tournament. Ren pulled off an upset

over No. 2 pick Lucas Enders, 6-2, 6-1, to bag one of the eight qualifying berths in the main draw.

Christopher Cajigan had to compete in a qualifying tournament, too, to earn a ticket to the main draw of the boys U16 singles. He won his first match against Alex Rofe, 6-1, 6-4, and will need only one more win to advance to the tournament proper.

In the doubles, Cajigan is

contributing 5.

Meanwhile, elimination games in the Sun Palace tournament will continue this weekend. Tomorrow, Rollers 1 takes on Rollers 4 in the first game at 5:30pm; Tappers meets Wrecking Balls (girls division) at 6:30pm; and FTMP faces Rollers 2 at 7:30pm. Then on Saturday, Dream Team collides against Rollers 1 at 5:30pm, Futball

ROLLERS

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off berth after dominating Rollers 5 from start to finish. Rollers 3 built an early twin-digit lead, 28-16, and kept going in the second half to double up Rollers 5.

Kyle Rios, Christian Morales, and Wilfredo Francisco worked together in the opening half for Rollers 3 with the

former hitting back-to-back triples in the closing minutes of the first frame and finishing the period with 8 points. Morales and Francisco chipped in 6 markers apiece in the first half, which saw Rollers 5 struggled to find a player that could have jumpstarted the team’s offense.

Five different players scored for Rollers 5 in the first half, but no one clearly stepped up,

as Ylac Caracut, Emmanuel Cobacha, and Aaron Ogomoro hit only two field goal apiece. With no one to turn to, Rollers 5 fell behind further in the second half.

Rollers 3, on the other hand, had a new set of players keeping the team’s offense going in the second half with Jedd Cudia dropping all her 7 points in the final frame, Jun Alipio also drilling 7, and Angelo Factor

duels Hula Girls at 6:30pm, and Rollers 4 battles Rollers 2 at 7:30pm.

Rollers 3 64 – Rios 13, Alipio 9, Factor 8, Francisco 8, Morales 8, Cudia 7, Among 5, Cruz 3, Kwon 2.

Rollers 5 32 – Caracut 10, Ogomoro 5, Mamaril 5, Alonzo 4, Cobacha 4, Yu 3.

Scoring by halves: 28-16, 64-32.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	16	17	.485	—
Brooklyn	13	21	.382	3½
Boston	13	22	.371	4
New York	12	22	.353	4½
Philadelphia	12	23	.343	5
Southeast Division				
Miami	27	8	.771	—
Atlanta	18	17	.514	9
Washington	15	17	.469	10½
Charlotte	15	21	.417	12½
Orlando	10	24	.294	16½
Central Division				
Indiana	28	6	.824	—
Chicago	15	18	.455	12½
Detroit	14	21	.400	14½
Cleveland	12	23	.343	16½
Milwaukee	7	27	.206	21
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	27	8	.771	—
Houston	22	13	.629	5
Dallas	20	15	.571	7
New Orleans	15	18	.455	11
Memphis	15	19	.441	11½
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	27	8	.771	—
Portland	26	9	.743	1
Denver	17	17	.500	9½
Minnesota	17	17	.500	9½
Utah	12	25	.324	16
Pacific Division				
Golden State	24	13	.649	—
L.A. Clippers	24	13	.649	—
Phoenix	20	13	.606	2
L.A. Lakers	14	21	.400	9
Sacramento	11	22	.333	11
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

2013 U13 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament Part21

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Astig Futsal coach Jerswin Angeles gives instructions to his player before their title game against Fake Madrid in the 2013 U13 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.



Saipan Soccer School's Angie Ito signals to start the play between Foot Loose and Kanoa Mighty Orange.



A Foot Loose player, right, tries to get away from the defense of Mighty Kanoa Orange's Anthony Fruit.



Fake Madrid's Logan Mister, left, is guarded by Mighty Kanoa Orange's Anthony Fruit.



Fake Madrid huddles after winning over Kanoa Mighty Orange.



The hands of Astig Futsal, left, and Foot Loose players get tangled as they battle for possession.



Fake Madrid's Guinevere Borja checks on her teammates first before heading to their court.



Astig Futsal goalie Chevy Kate Alipio goes for a catch.



Foot Loose's John Rojas stretches for a goal against Astig Futsal in the second half.



Hayward's 37 lift
Jazz past Thunder,
112-101

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Luck gets 2nd
chance to test
himself against
Brady

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Villavicencio takes Queen of the Lanes tiara

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

No more bridesmaid finish for Yho Villavicencio this time, as she ruled Saipan Bowling Association's 2013 Budweiser Queen of the Lanes Tournament held last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Villavicencio defeated veteran bowler Elena Soll in the finals to end her losing skid in the season-ending tournament. Villavicencio placed runner-up in the Queen of the Lanes finale for three straight years and four of the last five seasons. She settled for second place against Diane Camacho (2012), Gloria Omechel (2011 and 2010), and Emy Williams (2008). Ron Cal topped the 2009 edition of the annual tournament, beating Camacho.

Villavicencio was pitted against Soll in the title duel after securing the outright first finals berth and topping the eight-game qualifying roll-off. The eventual champion collected 1,350 pinfalls in the qualifier, earning no less than 140 pinfalls

in all eight games and posting her best score in Game 3 (193). Villavicencio carded 169, 181, 169, 146, 140, 166, and 186 in the seven other games to average 168.75 pinfalls and automatically advance to the finals.

Omechel and Soll finished second and third, respectively, in the qualifier to make it to the stepladder finals and get a chance to challenge Villavicencio. Omechel was the only bowler to record at least 200 pinfalls in a single game with her 206 in Game 2 and adding her 160, 169, 177, 124, 155, 165, and 181 in the remaining games, she collected 1,337 pinfalls for the runner-up honors in the qualifier.

See VILLAVICENCIO on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Yho Villavicencio, seen here with the runner-up trophy during the SBA awards ceremony last year, this time will bring home the championship trophy in the Budweiser Queen of the Lanes tournament after ruling last Sunday's finale.

Lee keeps streak, blanks foe



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee, seen here in action in a local tournament, won her debut in the 2014 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships yesterday at the Wodonga Tennis Centre in Victoria, Australia.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is still on a roll, winning her opening match in the 2014 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships via shutout.

Fresh from her title conquest in the girls U12 singles event of the 2014 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup last Tuesday, Lee showed no mercy against Chloe Smith in the opening round of the grasscourt tournament yesterday at the Wodonga Tennis Centre in Victoria. The 6-0, 6-0 triumph against Smith was the 11th and 12th set she won in the girls singles play since last Friday. She went 10-0 in the five singles matches in the Margaret Court Cup, including a 6-1, 6-3 stunner against the top-ranked Kelly Gilmour.

Gilmour is in the same tour-
See LEE on Page 26



Rollers 3 climbs to solo lead



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rollers 3's Christian Morales, left, and Wilfredo Francisco, right, hound Rollers 1's Jaron Ano during the second half of their game in the Sun Palace caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rollers 3 snatched the solo No. 1 spot in the boys division of the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament after whipping Rollers 5, 64-32, last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The division leader has a 4-1 record, one victory ahead of Rollers 2 (3-1). The Rollers 3 was scheduled to play Dream Team (0-3) last night for its penultimate game in the round-robin elimination and another victory would give the playoff berth.

Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoff round and Rollers 5 is in danger of missing the cut after falling to a 0-5 record. Other teams gunning for playoff sets are Rollers 1 (2-1), Rollers 4 (2-2), and FTMP (2-1). Rollers 1 and FTMP squared off in the other boys division match last night.

Rollers 3 zeroed in on a play-
See ROLLERS on Page 26

